

Walsall & Willenhall CHRONICLE

Thursday, October 4, 2018

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HOUSING BID FOR EYESORE PUB SITE

Report by Joe Sweeney

AN 'EYESORE' strip of land that was once home to a pub could be transformed for housing.

However, highways and environmental bosses have voiced their concerns over the proposals.

The site, on the corner of Bentley Road North and Wolverhampton Road West, near Willenhall, has been vacant since the demolition of The Lane Arms, and has been a target for vandals since the pub closed down several years ago.

Now developers Sanman Properties has put forward plans to build 12 three-bedroom homes on the land.

A one-time proposal to build a restaurant there never came to fruition.

A spokesman for Sanman said: "The development of this site will help bring vitality to the town and increase activity on the streets.

"As a result of this, there will be improved community safety and employment opportunities for people.

"This 0.24-hectare piece of land has been unused for quite a few years now and provides great potential for much-needed housing in the area.

Concerns

"There is a local shopping parade within walking distance and a bus service that connects Willenhall to Walsall with stops nearby, so this is perfect for a small housing development."

But a spokesman for the council's highways department said: "Under the current application, access to the front-facing four houses would be problematic in that it would effectively create a dropped kerb with a space about 22 metres wide in total.

"This could cause confusion or conflicts between motorists turning in and out of the entry points."

The council's tree officer said: "The removal of a valuable group of eight protected lime trees and a protected cherry and silver birch tree to make way for the housing would be detrimental to the long-term landscape value of the area, and there is insufficient room to provide appropriate replacement planting.

"The removal of the other protected trees could be supported in principle, but there is an imbalance of tree removal and replacement," the officer added.

Walsall councillors are set to make a decision over the application at a meeting next week.

FATHER FOUND GUILTY OF MURDERING MYLEE



William Billingham was found guilty of Mylee's murder

A FATHER who brutally plunged a 20cm blade into his young daughter's chest has been convicted of murdering the schoolgirl.

William Billingham dropped his head as he was unanimously convicted on Monday afternoon of murdering eight-year-old Mylee Billingham in his bungalow. He was due to be sentenced on Tuesday morning.

Cries of 'yes' echoed from the public gallery as jurors sealed the 55-year-old's fate, while Mylee's mother Tracey Taundry closed her eyes in relief.

The father-of-six, who looked emotionless as he was escorted from the dock, now faces a life sentence for killing his daughter in his Brownhills home in January. Jurors con-

victed Billingham of murder after less than 90 minutes of deliberation.

He was also convicted of making a threat to kill Ms Taundry with the same blade he stabbed Mylee with just moments later.

After declaring their verdicts, jurors were told the killer slashed his wrists with razor blades while he stood trial.

The apparent suicide attempt forced the trial to be abandoned for two days while Billingham recovered at Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham before he was taken back to court in a taxi, with a police escort.

In legal discussion which could not be reported until the end of the trial, defence psychiatrist Dr Nuwan Galappathie said he



Mylee Billingham, aged eight, was killed by her father

found it 'distressing' watching CCTV footage of Mylee hours before Billingham murdered her.

Unemployed factory worker Billingham killed his daughter in a 'revenge' act against Mylee's mother after becoming 'jealous' of her new relationship with a woman.

He locked Ms Taundry out of his Valley View home, dragging St James Primary School pupil Mylee back inside where she screamed 'stop it daddy'.

Billingham's defence team claimed he was suffering from moderate depression at the time of Mylee's death, and urged jurors to find him guilty of manslaughter, on the basis of diminished responsibility.

TRIBUTES

Funds growing for grid girl's funeral

TRIBUTES have been paid to a former grid girl for Lewis Hamilton who was killed in a horror crash.

Kate Woodcock, from Aldridge, described as a 'lovely, beautiful girl', was killed when her black BMW smashed into a wall on Chester Road, Stonnall, last Thursday. She was pronounced dead at the scene. Floral tributes and messages have been left at the site of the accident.

The 30-year-old was a grid girl - a professional model appearing at Formula 1 races across the world - and had worked with champion Lewis Hamilton for two years.

Modelling agency SDMP said: "We're deeply shocked and saddened to lose such a lovely, beautiful girl and an exceptional model who shone very bright always."

Friends have now launched a fundraising JustGiving page for Ms Woodcock's funeral, which is closing in on £5,000.

Organiser Lucy Ford said: "Kate was a beautiful, special girl who will be missed deeply by everyone who knew her."



Ms Woodcock

COLLECTION

Contactless pay in use at church

PARISHIONERS in Walsall are using contactless payments to donate to a church.

St Matthew's Church is among the 18 taking part in the Lichfield Diocese trial designed to avoid the time-honoured fumble for cash when the traditional collection plate is passed round at Sunday services.

The Rector, Rev Jim Trood, said: "One of the older members at our church said he thought it was great, commenting it was so much easier than having to find the right money to put on the collection plate."

The terminals can also be used for one-off donations at weddings, baptisms and funerals. Payments of up to £20 can be made via debit card or Apple and Android pay and included in Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme claims.

INSIDE

HE'S SO LUCKY LUCKY, LUCKY



PAGE 11

abbey blinds

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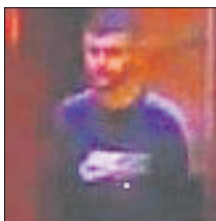
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CCTV appeal launched over attacks



Darwall Street suspect

THESE CCTV images have been released to help police catch two men involved in separate attacks.

In one incident, a teenager suffered a fractured right cheekbone, swelling to his left eye, a broken nose and a misaligned lower jaw as he was attacked on his way home from a night out in Walsall.

The 19-year-old was walking along Darwall Street at around 4.30am on September 15 when an unknown man

attacked him. Police have issued an image of a man they would like to question who may have information about the assault.

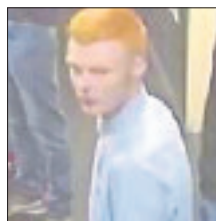
He is described as white, aged between 19 and 23 years, around 5ft 9ins and of medium build with short dark hair.

A second image was released to find a man in connection with another incident in Walsall town centre. A man was hit in the back of the head

at The Pitch Bar at around 2am on August 18.

Anyone with information can contact West Midlands Police via live chat at west-midlands.police.uk between 8am and midnight, call 101 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

For the incident in Darwall Street, quote incident number 20WS/210922A/18. For information about the attack at The Pitch Bar, quote 20WS/189662E/18.



Pitch Bar attack image

Assaults on ambulance staff highest in country

TWO out of every five paramedics covering the Midlands have been attacked in the last year, according to a shock new report.

Staff at West Midlands Ambulance Service (WMAS) posted the highest figure of any trust in the country when asked if they had experienced physical violence from patients, relatives or the public in last 12 months.

And an NHS reviews of ambulance trusts by Lord Carter of Coles said the actual percentage of assaults could be far higher, as assaults against staff are no longer recorded nationally since NHS Protect was abolished.

The service said there had been 171 attacks on staff since April. There were 410 in total in 2017/18.

The review, which praised WMAS for its efficiency, said 40 per cent of its staff had come under attack in the last year. Of the other nine trusts, South West Ambulance Service Trust recorded the lowest rate of assaults, with 28 per cent of staff saying they had been attacked.

Variation

The report says: "Violent attacks against NHS staff have not been recorded nationally since the abolition of NHS Protect, which leaves the voluntary NHS Staff Survey and local reporting mechanisms as the only indicators. This means that actual percentages may be much higher. We analysed the levels of physical violence that staff experienced and found considerable variation between trusts."

WMAS covers Shropshire, Herefordshire, Worcestershire, Staffordshire, Warwickshire, Coventry, Birmingham and Black Country. Spokesman Murray MacGregor said: "The trust works hard to encourage staff to report violence. The chief executive has been clear that he will push for prosecution against anyone who attacks staff who are doing their best to help the public."

Bollards cut short scooter shortcut



Keith Beardmore cannot fit through the bollards on his scooter

A DISABLED man is having to go nearly two miles out of his way on his mobility scooter because concrete bollards are blocking his shortcut to the shops.

Keith Beardmore, of Wednesbury, has always used an off-road shortcut from Darlaston Lane to Vulcan Road to reach mobility scooter repair shop JR Wooddisse that he visits regularly in Dale Street.

On a smaller scooter he could fit round the side of the bollards but now the 68-year-old has had to have a slightly bigger scooter he can't squeeze through to use the scenic shortcut anymore.

He said many others using mobility scooters have a similar problem

and wants to get in touch with whoever owns the alley to see if they could be moved slightly.

He said: "I go down a street called Darlaston Lane and there's a little cut through which I used to take. When I had my little scooter I used to go through there fine and it's a big shortcut to the mobility store I go to."

"Now I'm forced to go around, down and round to Vulcan Road."

"It's about a mile-and-a-half long. It's just not worth enough."

"There's concrete 'pyramids', about two-foot-six high, but they are so close together that I just can't get my bigger scooter through."

Mr Beardmore said: "I'm trying



The red marks the route now taken

to find the owner of the land to push one of them over a bit to let me through.

"Whoever owns the land surely they could get something done."

Mr Beardmore, who has arthritis, said he had to upgrade to a bigger model of scooter, due to his previous model being pavement-only.

He said he was unable to walk very far due to his condition and disliked driving - despite his long career as a lorry driver.

He added: "I was a lorry driver, driving instructor, taxi driver and minibus driver - I loved driving, but now I don't want to be close to the road or on the road at all. I can't walk very far."

Mother: No school place available for Layla, aged 6

A SIX-year-old girl has been unable to find a new school after her mother moved to Walsall from Derby in the summer. Layla Dakin is being taught at home until the issue has been settled.

Her mother Corrina de Havilland and her partner William Sheppard are trying to get a place sorted out for the youngster at one of Walsall Council's primary schools.

Corrina, aged 26, said: "She did a reception year and Year 1 in Derby. We moved to Little Bloxwich in the summer and I applied to the council on August 23 to get a Year Two place at five schools. I was told the application needed to be with them by August 28."

"I was then told I had not filled in the form correctly and they were under the impression she was in school in Derby and there were no places at schools in a two-mile radius of our home."

Walsall Council said: "Sometimes, as is the case here, more applications for places are received than the school has available. However, as there is no school within the statutory walking distance of the home address with vacancies, the first choice of school has been approached and asked to admit Layla as a permitted exception to the infant class size legislation."

Bungling burglar chased over fields

A BURGLAR who was chased on foot as he escaped through fields has been sentenced to a two-year community order.

Benjamin Worrall, of Bescot Road, Walsall, broke into a house in Claverley, near Bridgnorth, in July, causing £1,500 of damage, Stafford Crown Court heard.

The 18-year-old took off in the householder's F-type Jaguar, but lost control and jolted into a stone wall. He disappeared into woodland before entering the garden of a property in Seisdon Road, Trysull, and was challenged and made off. Police were called and he was chased with a dog unit and apprehended.

Representing himself, Worrall admitted burglary, aggravated vehicle taking and being on enclosed premises. He must complete 100 hours' unpaid work and was banned from driving for a year.

Park event honours fallen town soldiers

THE story of 445 Willenhall soldiers who fought in the First World War will be told in the town's Memorial Park

The Soldier's Tale will be performed in the bandstand on November 10, at 7pm. Entry is free and the Willenhall Singers will provide the music.

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Legal team in 7km walk to raise cash for charity

LAW firm Enoch Evans continued its support of the Alzheimer's Society by taking part in a memory walk at Sutton Park and raising £300 in sponsorship.

The event at Sutton Park on September 15 saw members of the Walsall firm of solicitors gather to walk 7km together and raise money for the charity.

The team was organised by senior solicitor and Dementia Friend volunteer Lucy Grimsley, who said: "The whole Enoch Evans team and I are really proud of our involvement in this year's Alzheimer's Society memory walk, which was held at Sutton Park."

"The work of the charity is really close to our hearts at Enoch Evans and it's a real honour to be able to help the lives of those who are suffering."

"As a senior solicitor in the wills, tax and probate team I get to see the impact that Alzheimer's and dementia have on an individual's life as well as their loved ones."

The walk in Sutton Park was an opportunity for the legal team to engage with the local community, as the firm sets its sights on moving into the Sutton Coldfield area before the end of the year.

The 130-year-old firm, the largest law firm in Walsall, is now headed up by the fourth generation of the Evans family from day to day.

Police search for suspect Taylor

A MAN wanted for robbery, criminal damage and failing to appear at court has links to Walsall. Rocky Taylor is wanted by police in connection with various offences.

The 32-year-old, from Swadlincote on the Staffordshire and Derbyshire border, has links to the Walsall area. Officers are urging anyone who sees Taylor to not approach him and call 999 immediately. He is also known to have local links to the Normanton, Alvaston and Allenton areas of Derby - as well as Grimsby.

A spokesman for Derbyshire Police said: "If you have information about where he may be or have seen him recently please get in touch. Please quote reference number 18000379846 in any correspondence."

People with information are also urged to contact Derbyshire Police on Twitter, on101 or at www.derbyshire.police.uk/Contact-Us. You can also call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.



Rocky Taylor

Warning over absence as game released



Willenhall E-Act Academy

PARENTS were warned that home checks would be carried out if pupils missed school following the release of the new Fifa game.

Fifa 19 was released on Friday, but Willenhall E-Act Academy was taking no chances on pupils calling in 'sick' to sneak in some early console time.

The school sent a text message to parents, warning them of the consequences if their child was not in lessons.

Staff insisted 'medical evidence from a doctor' would be required if pupils were off. As a last resort, home

checks would even be carried out. The eagerly-awaited Fifa 19 was released on PC, Nintendo Switch, PS3, PS4, Xbox 360, and Xbox One. The full text from Willenhall E-Act Academy read: "Good morning, we are fully aware that Fifa 19 has been released today. However we expect your child to be in school as they can play the game later or over the weekend."

"If your child is not in school then you will have to call school and we will require medical evidence from a doctor. If we don't hear from you then a home visit will be completed."

A spokesman for the academy said: "At Willenhall E-Act Academy, we take student attendance very seriously."

"In our most recent Ofsted monitoring inspection carried out in July 2018, inspectors noted that academy and trust leaders were 'taking effective action' with improvements noted in the quality of teaching, student behaviour and attendance."

"We remain confident that Willenhall will soon join the growing list of E-Act academies rated at least Good by Ofsted."

Landlord feared going blind after 'acid' attack

A PUB landlord was hospitalised after having 'acid' thrown in his face while sitting in his car outside a takeaway restaurant.

Father-of-two Mike was sitting in his car on Bloxwich High Street while husband, Lee Glover-Johnson, aged 41, went into the Chunky Grill to get them both food.

Seconds later an unknown attacker opened Mike's car door and threw a burning liquid into his face. The 46-year-old, who used to run The Crown pub in Aldridge, said: "I was just sitting in the car when the door opened. Whoever it was said 'don't move, don't move'."



Mr Glover-Johnson

"I thought it was someone who knew me, just playing a joke. Then all of a sudden I felt something on my face burning."

"They said 'don't move' again and I was trying to find my seat belt. I told them to take the car. It all happened so quickly. Then they drove off in their own car."

Severe

Thanks to quick-thinking members of the public who threw water on his face, Mike believes his injuries were not as severe as they could have been. He said: "I was scared I was going to lose my sight. I was so lucky people reacted quickly."

The couple, who live in Reeves Street, Bloxwich, married last year and work at the Sheldon Hall pub in Birmingham.

Mike said: "I'm just in shock now. I don't understand it. If they had taken the car or something maybe, but it seemed like just a random attack."

West Midlands Police described the attack as an 'isolated incident'. They said the substance was 'non-corrosive' and are trying to establish what it was. They think it was a tactic designed to distract Mike while his laptop was stolen from the passenger seat.

The offender is believed to have escaped in a blue saloon car driven by another man. Witnesses to Sunday's attack can call 101.

Cancer survivor opens charity shop



Lucas Reece, aged seven, opens the Cancer Research UK superstore at Crown Wharf

A WALSALL schoolboy who survived advanced leukaemia has opened a new Cancer Research charity superstore in his home town.

Lucas Reece, aged seven, cut the ribbon at the Midlands' first Cancer Research UK superstore at Crown Wharf Retail Park.

At 6,000 sq ft, it is the charity's biggest store in the region. The youngster was diagnosed with cancer in 2013 and after his initial treatment failed he was given the most intense form of chemotherapy which has since been successful.

Lucas, who had his first day at

Alumwell junior School in September, said: "I've always wanted to do something like this - cut the ribbon to open a shop."

His mother Michelle said: "If it wasn't for research, Lucas wouldn't be here today."

The store is looking for volunteers. Call 01922 633137.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Residents meet new police chief

FRUSTRATED residents are set to grill a Walsall police chief on a town's 'lawless society'.

Residents in Willenhall are today (Thursday) due to meet Chief Superintendent Andy Parsons to question him about local crime.

They have previously raised concerns with Police & Crime Commissioner David Jamieson about a perceived increase in crime, due, they say to a dwindling police presence.

Ward Councillor Diane Coughlan said: "Willenhall is lawless. There are break-ins, thefts, stabbings and even murders. Residents want some reassurance that the police are doing something to keep them safe."

"We cannot carry on like this. People want answers. Hopefully this meeting will put their mind at ease. It will be good for them to hear from the chief superintendent."

The meeting will be taking place from 6pm at St Stephens Church in Wolverhampton Street, Willenhall.

Two are sought in burglary appeal

POLICE want to speak to two men in connection with a burglary in Willenhall. It took place in Pool Hayes Lane at around 5.20pm on September 15.

Nothing was believed to have been taken, but damage was caused to the conservatory and a window. Police believe the two suspects had visited other houses in the area offering to do building work.

Call 101 quoting crime number 20WS/211280N/18.

Vandals throw rock at patrol car

POLICE have described the actions of vandals who threw a rock at one of their cars in Walsall as 'disgraceful'.

West Midlands Police officers were sat in the marked vehicle in Revival Street, Bloxwich, near the junction of Woodall, when the rock was thrown at around 10am on Sunday.

West Midlands Police's Force Response said on Twitter: "Fortunately only a small chip on the glass and bodywork but disgraceful nevertheless."

Thugs escape after ram raid on shop

THUGS smashed their way into a shop in an early morning ram raid. Three men in a silver car drove into the News and Booze shop in Station Street, Cheslyn Hay, in the early hours of Friday.

They stole cigarettes and scratchcards before making off towards Low Street. Anyone with information should call 101 or Crimestoppers 0800 555 111.

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Schools invited to try drama scheme

THE National Theatre is inviting primary schools in the West Midlands looking for inspiration for their end-of-term play to take part in its Let's Play programme. It provides everything that teachers need to create an outstanding piece of theatre and inspire creative learning.

Schools can send up to four teachers on a theatre-making course led by professional theatre artists as well as choosing from eight specially-commissioned scripts, musical scores and backing tracks for original songs.

Visit nationaltheatre.org.uk/let-s-play to find out more about the programme and to register to take part.

Call for bobbies on village streets

CALLS are being made for heightened security in Essington. Councillor David Clift, of South Staffordshire Council, said residents are 'demanding answers' from police after an increase in crime in the area.

Councillor David Clift said: "We need warranted police officers back on our streets instead of PCSOs who have limited powers and finish their shifts at 10am."

"Replacing warranted officers with PCSOs isn't working. Because of this Essington and other communities in Staffordshire have become targets and easy picking for criminals. Residents are now demanding answers."

Building materials sales on the rise

BUILDERS' merchant sales in the UK were up by 1.1 per cent in July on the previous month. On the year from July 2017 they were up by 8.3 per cent according to the Builders Merchant Building Index.

The increase was helped by the month having an extra trading day than a year before. Three product categories achieved their highest monthly sales in four years - heavy building materials, timber and joinery products and decorating.

Kristian in effort to find future gymnasts

BLACK Country-born Olympic gymnast-turned coach, Kristian Thomas is involved in a drive to encourage boys to take up gymnastics.

Park Wrekin Gymnastics Club, based in Wellington, is recognising a rising demand from boys and Kristian welcomed Italian national gymnastics coach and judge Alessandro Monti to the Telford coaching team. He said: "Alessandro will be a great asset."

Railway cycle path plan backed by MP

A MIDLAND MP is backing plans to convert a disused railway line into a public footpath and cycleway linking Lichfield, Burntwood and Brownhills

Michael Fabricant, who is the MP for Lichfield said: "I have been approached by the Burntwood Action Group and the Lichfield Waterworks Trust both of whom would like to see the disused railway line from Lichfield to Brownhills via Burntwood

converted into a public cycleway and footpath.

"I have consulted with the Lichfield & Hatherton Canals Restoration Trust as the Lichfield Canal would run close to the line and some points, and they too support this initiative.

"So, provided Network Rail have no plans to restore this line - and I believe they do not - this scheme has my enthusiastic support. I hope to walk

part of the route with members of the Burntwood Action Group in the not too distant future and see for myself the project's potential."

Meanwhile, Simon Caron who is vice-chair of the Burntwood Action Group (BAG), has told Mr Fabricant: "We have been working with a number of organisations and have finally, after considerable effort, met with Network Rail to discuss a proposal to

open the disused railway line between Lichfield, Hammerwich, Burntwood and Charringtons A5 as a cycle and walkway.

"With further work at the Brownhills end it should be possible to link the route to the canal towpath, allowing an extension to Chasewater. This would provide a traffic-free footpath/cycleway all the way from Lichfield to Chasewater."

Yobs use estate as dump for fly-tipping

Pedal power helps out hospital



Sister Dora's Explorers, Tim Moreham, Paul Phillips, Richard Edge and, front, Brandon Hall

A bike ride has raised more than £6,000 for hospital equipment.

Eight friends, fundraisers from Sister Dora's Explorers, gathered at Brighton Pier on September 15 at 6am and left for Walsall - heading across Ascot, Henley on Thames, Oxford, Stratford-on-Avon and Birmingham.

The group, who are from the Walsall and Cannock area, aimed to raise £6,000. Brandon Hall, a rider who took part, said: "We've now passed that mark, which was

the amount required to purchase a Accu-Vein machine for the chemotherapy unit at the Manor Hospital. All proceeds still to be collected will now go to Birmingham Children's Hospital.

"The weather was very kind to us throughout the day with mild temperatures and a very welcome gentle cross tail wind. As we rode on through Henley the sun was shining and we stopped on the bridge over the Thames for a couple of pictures. We passed through the beautiful city of Oxford

TAXPAYERS will have to fork out thousands of pounds to clear up fly-tipping in Walsall.

There were 87 reports in the five days last week - on average 17 a day. The cost to the taxpayer will be more than £10,000 for the council to clear.

Rubbish thrown onto the street included bags of cannabis waste, fridge freezers, toilet seats, sofas, beds and mattresses. Crook Lane and Highgate Road that it was blocked off to road users and pedestrians because of the amount dumped, which the council said caused both 'danger and inconvenience'.

Walsall Council published a daily round-up of fly-tipping reports via Facebook.

Councillor Louise Harrison said: "The reports of just five days of fly-tipping, along with the photos kindly sent in by residents, show what an ongoing problem fly-tipping is.



The New Invention rubbish

Parks

The authority has called it 'shameful behaviour'.

Fly tipping cost Walsall Council £426,000 last year, while a total of 2,800 fly-tipping reports were received between January 1 and September 27 this year.

During January and February 2018, signs were put up in around 60 parks and green spaces to remind people that fly-tipping is a crime and can lead to five years in jail and an unlimited fine.

A dedicated fly-tipping hotline was set up this year on 01922 653355 to allow callers to report issues.

Meanwhile, residents say the Coppice Farm Park estate in New Invention has been turned into a giant rubbish dump with old fridges left in the middle of a walkway used

by families on a route that runs from Lichfield Road behind houses in Hillbury Drive.

Walsall Councillor Ian Shires said: "This is the second incident we have had in the same area in a short space of time.

"A few weeks back it was so bad it looked like someone had had an industrial office clear-out. There really was some nasty stuff left beside the walkway behind Hillbury Drive.

"People need to make sure that white goods like fridges/freezers etc, are disposed of correctly, or they could be contributing to the £500,000 a year it costs to clean up our borough after all those who use our public space as their own personal dustbin.

"That's half-a-million pounds worth of services and jobs we are being robbed of."

Ambulance service 'most efficient in the country'

WEST Midlands Ambulance Service (WMAS) is the most efficient in the country. A review by Lord Carter of Coles, singled out WMAS for praise.

However he said paramedics should treat more patients at the scene to reduce pressures on A&E and hospital beds.

The NHS could save £300 million a year by 2021 by avoiding unnecessary ambulance use and caring for patients closer to home. The Labour peer said 'an ambulance is not a taxi to A&E', as he called for the NHS fleet to be updated to ensure medics have access to patient records and the best technology while on the road.

Frontline staff should also be given better information about other health services they can refer patients to, he said. The report, which examined 10 ambulance trusts in England, suggests improvements in assessing patients over the phone during 999 calls would help ease the strain on ambulance crews.

The West Midlands service was the only one in the country with a paramedic on every vehicle and has the most modern fleet with all vehicles standardised and none over five years old.

However, the review found paramedics had a lack of alternative options than A&E, meaning patients almost always end up in emergency departments, piling pressure on hospital staff. Lord Carter, non-executive director at NHS Improvement, said: "Too many patients are being unnecessarily taken to A&E by ambulances, putting further pressure on hospital services that are already on the back foot."

Memorial concert for choir stalwart

A CONCERT will honour the memory of a loyal choir member who sang for 40 years. Maureen Watkin was the musical director of The Marston Singers for about seven years before having to take a step back due to her health.

She was a member of the singers for four decades and was also awarded an MBE in recognition of her voluntary work with the St John's Ambulance Service.

Mrs Watkin died in 2017, aged in her 70s, and The Marston Singers have organised a tribute concert in her honour for Saturday at East Park Methodist Church, Brooklands Parade, Moseley at 7.30pm. Tickets on the door cost £6. For further information or to book tickets for the memorial concert, call 01902 842068.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Raiders escape empty-handed

THREE failed burglars tried to break into a house before escaping empty-handed. The thieves targeted a home in Blackwood Drive, Streetly.

They pulled outside the house in a black Vauxhall Astra and climbed over the front fence to gain access. But as they approached the side door they were disturbed by the occupant who, on hearing a noise, turned the light on. It happened on Friday September 22 at about 10.15pm.

Anyone with information can call police on 101, or at www.west-midlands.police.uk, quoting reference 20WS/21727W/18; alternatively call Crimestoppers, 0800 555 111.

Woman targeted by rogue traders

AN elderly woman was targeted by common who charged hundreds of pounds for basic jobs. Two men visited a resident in the Park Hall area of Walsall on Monday and charged £400 for work including cutting back shrubs and wiping down fascia boards.

The rogue traders were due to return the following day to remove supposed rotting wood which they claimed would cause damp and were due to charge £700 for the job but left after two neighbours confronted them.

Anyone with information should contact police on 101, or visit www.west-midlands.police.uk

Man hit by lorry and killed on M6

A MAN has died after being hit by a lorry on the M6 in Staffordshire.

Emergency services were called to the crash on the motorway last Thursday morning. It happened on the northbound stretch between Junction 15 and Junction 16. A man aged in his mid-30s was pronounced dead at the scene.

The M6 motorway northbound was closed following the crash the lanes had reopened by 11.30am.

Long tailbacks formed miles back to Stafford after the crash, with traffic queuing back towards Junction 14.

Wolves boss: City will thrive on our success

WOLVES are targeting Premier League success and a global following that will help bring in business for Wolverhampton, managing director Laurie Dalrymple says.

More than 400 people crowded into the GTG centre at Wednesfield to hear the Wolverhampton Wanderers boss outline the club's ambitious plans, building a fanbase across Europe, the Americas and Asia through social media.

Arboretum cycle club marks first anniversary

A COMMUNITY cycling group which was hit by a devastating theft of bikes shortly after opening, has marked its first year in operation.

Walsall Arboretum Community Cycle Club has celebrated a whole year of running sessions for local people looking to learn to ride a bike. The club, funded by the national cycling charity Cycling UK and supported by Walsall Council and Walsall Bike Project, has taught the Walsall community, especially retirees, to enjoy getting back on a bike and given them a place to have fun and socialise.

The birthday is a real milestone for the group. Just a few weeks after starting last autumn, all of the group's new bicycles were stolen from a locked compound, and it was touch and go whether they would be able to keep cycling together.

Thanks to regional news coverage and an appeal by Cycling UK, people across the West Midlands generously came forward and donated their unwanted bicycles in time for Christmas.

Lesley Easter, who runs the club, said: "In spite of our rocky start, Walsall Arboretum Community Cycle Club has had a tremendous first year, with our dedicated learners turning out in all weathers to cycle together. Our eldest participants have been in their late eighties, which is hugely impressive."

Narinder Kaur, aged 54, joined the club a couple of months ago, when she was out running in the Arboretum and simply spotted the group and asked to join in. Narinder had never had the opportunity to learn to ride a bike in childhood like most people do.

She said: "I had a bike for about eight years sat in my house and I tried to learn but I just couldn't. But in less than a week with the club I managed it and have carried on ever since."

Shed broken into with bird feeder

BURGLARS broke into a shed using a metal bird feeder in broad daylight and stole golf clubs.

Offenders gained access to the rear garden of a property in Northumberland Way, Walsall, between 7.30am and 6pm last Monday.

A bird feeder was then used to force the shed door open and a set of golf clubs were stolen along with a black and burgundy bag and some golf accessories.

Anyone who has seen or heard anything suspicious has been asked to contact the police on 101, or visit www.west-midlands.police.uk to use the live chat facility, quoting reference 20WS/219187H/18.

Alternatively call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Family hope death will serve as warning



Liam Ball

THE family of a teenager who was killed in a car crash in Walsall say they hope his death will force young people to recognise why road safety is so important.

Liam Ball, aged 17, was a passenger in a speeding car when the driver lost control and collided with two parked cars back in August.

A 16-year-old, who cannot be named for legal reasons, was detained for more than three years earlier this week after pleading guilty to dangerous driving, driving without a licence or insurance, and for fleeing the scene.

Liam's mother Emma Victory, age 37,

said: "Liam was so loved by his friends and family and his loss has left a big hole in our lives. We still cannot believe Liam has gone. Our family is absolutely devastated that he will not get to fulfil his dreams and aspirations in life.

"We will never get over losing Liam in such needless circumstances. Whilst nothing will change what has happened, if any good can come from this, our hope is that young people recognise why road safety is so important.

"It is absolutely vital that people only get behind the wheel if they are qualified and have all of the skills they need. The conse-

quences of not being ready are just too huge to ignore."

Rebecca Hearsey, the legal expert at Irwin Mitchell representing Liam's family, added: "Liam's family remain understandably devastated by their loss.

"No family should have to face what they are going through and following the sentencing, they are keen to stress the huge importance of road safety and the need for young people to only drive when they have the credentials and qualifications to do so. Failing to do so can put other road users, pedestrians and – as this case tragically highlights – passengers at serious risk of harm."

100 children 'at risk of abuse' – report warns

MORE than 100 children in Walsall have been assessed as being at risk of sexual exploitation – and some may have already begun being groomed, a report has revealed.

A total of 102 children in the town have been identified as having some level of risk in a report to the council.

Of those, 14 have been identified as being at significant risk and 24 children are assessed as being at serious risk – the highest level.

Walsall Children's Safeguarding Board (WSCB) is now taking immediate measures to tackle sexual abuse and exploitation in the borough.

The town council's head of safeguarding, Carol Boughton, who will present the findings of the report to the local authority this week, revealed: "Child sexual exploitation is a serious form of sexual abuse and is on the rise.

"Children or young people may be tricked into believing they're in a loving, consensual relationship.

Depend

"They are invited to parties and given drugs and alcohol. They are also groomed and exploited online.

"Paedophiles use a lot of common tactics to manipulate innocent or vulnerable children. Some children and young people are brought into the UK especially for the purposes of sexual exploitation. Children frequently trust their abusers and don't understand they're being abused. They sometimes depend on their abuser or are often simply too scared to tell anyone what's happening.

"Child sexual exploitation doesn't always involve physical contact and can happen online."

An Ofsted report published in September 2017 recommended that children's services 'improve the response to all children at risk of child sexual exploitation, making sure that all assessments, safety plans and interventions are of a consistently good quality'.

Children's services has now appointed a specialist Principal Exploitation Reduction Officer to carry out the work.

Hair-raising £700 from grandfather



From left, grandma Kath, grandfather Patrick, father Simon, mother Anjna, with Mia. Right, the ponytail

A KIND-HEARTED fundraiser from Walsall has chopped his long hair off to raise cash in tribute to his grand-daughter who is fighting leukaemia.

Mia Caulton was diagnosed with the blood cancer at seven months old and is continuing to undergo treatment.

In an effort to support the Perton youngster, grandfather Patrick Caulton, from Brownhills, had his long blonde hair cut off on Saturday.

The charity fundraiser, which took place at the 75 year old's local pub The Waterside in Wilkin Road, helped raise £700 for the Mia Pyari Smile Appeal, which goes directly to vital research into infant acute lymphoblastic leukaemia.

Her father, Simon Coulton, aged 46, said: "My dad

said he was going to cut his hair off for a good cause so I held him to his word.

"When she was diagnosed, it was truly devastating and shocking news for us but there is nothing stopping her incredible fighting spirit and zest for life."

Mia, who's now 22 months old, was diagnosed last July and spent nine months undergoing intensive therapy at Birmingham Children's Hospital. Her first birthday, Christmas and New Year was spent in hospital. Her parents, Mr Coulton and Anjna Mahey, set up the Mia Pyari Smile Appeal which funds the Children's Cancer and Leukaemia Group. For their next fundraiser, Miss Mahey, aged 40, will be climbing Ben Nevis. To donate, search for Mia Pyari Smile Appeal in Google.

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IN MY VIEW

with Mark Andrews



There's no art at all in paying out for this

A MEDIUM-sized, white wall unit, with six shelves. Adorned with about 35, small, plain white vases, and a few matching plates.

It's quite stylish, but unremarkable. The sort of thing you might see in the Wilko catalogue. So what would you pay for it? £200? Ok, push the boat out. At a pinch you might shell out £400, if you've got a trendy loft apartment. And you don't have to assemble it yourself.

You might therefore be surprised to learn that somebody paid £126,000 for this piece of furniture. That's right £126,000 for six shelves and a few dozen bits of cheap-looking pottery.

The reason, of course, is that this has not been sold as 'furniture', which it surely is, but as 'modern art', which these days appears to be a euphemism for 'useless art'. Assemble a few shelves, stick some cheap vases on them, give it a name – in this case, A Short History Of The China Trade – and that's '£126,000 please sir, have a nice day'.

Now that would be quite funny if it was just some pretentious London luvvie or vulgar Russian oligarch wasting their money on this junk. But unfortunately, it is you and I who have been taken for a ride.

A Short History of the China Trade is a recent addition to the Government Art Collection, comprising some 14,000 works. The taxpayer has also shelled out £2,346 for a child-like line drawing of a stickman on the wing of an aeroplane. Or for something more eye-catching, there is Caragh Thuring's 8ft canvas, featuring 12 lines of untidy handwriting about Anne and Agnes Bartholomew's wardrobe, or something like that. Ours for £28,500.

Then we come to In The Back by German Wolfgang Timmins: it is a photograph of three rather shabby looking office windows lit up at night. The Government paid £66,114.

Given the lack of visual appeal, it is unsurprising that most of this tat ends up in storage, which presumably the taxpayer also foots the bill for.

Now most reasonable people will understand the Government investing some money in great works of art, which can be displayed in art galleries, and used on important state occasions. I don't begrudge our leaders shelling out a few grand for a Constable, particularly if it stops it leaving the country. But £126,000 for some shelving and £66,114 for a photo of some windows in times of supposed austerity is taking the proverbial.

Still, if you can't beat 'em, join 'em, as the saying goes. I'm off to Argos for a flat-pack.

If change made would anyone notice the difference?



Gina Miller's Brexit list of 'all the options' effectively keeps the Remain vote intact



Lord Falconer – tutting over his suggestion that all drugs should be legalised



'You dirty rats' – remembered as James Cagney's immortal line in Each Dawn I Die

Legalise? Already easy to get drugs

I SUPPOSE we should all harrumph and tut-tut at Lord Falconer's suggestion that all drugs should be legalised. And yet. I have been watching and reporting on the so-called "war on drugs" for almost 50 years and it is easier today to get any substance you want, at a time and place to suit you, than I can ever recall. If, as Falconer suggests, a future Labour government chose to "legalise and regulate the supply of drugs," then most people would avoid them, some would try them and a tiny minority would become hooked on them and wreck their lives. In short, would anyone notice the difference?

FAREWELL, Labour. Goodbye, the Lib-Dems. And by now the Conservatives at their conference will have buried their differences, hammered out a Brexit deal acceptable to every MP and to our EU neighbours and arise, refreshed and invigorated, to prepare for another 20 years of government. Only joking!

THE best the PM can hope for is to delay the General Election until the constituency boundaries have been redrawn, as suggested by the Boundary Commissions, and the number of MPs reduced from 650 to 600. This, depending on your politics, will either redress a long-standing and unfair bias in favour of Labour or shift the goalposts for another Tory swindle.

MEANWHILE, we may all punch the air with joy at Labour's plan to wring billions out of the super-rich. At present, the richest one per cent of taxpayers comprises about 300,000 people earning more than £160,000 a year. They pay

THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



about a quarter of all UK income tax. So how much more will they willingly pay before consulting the best tax-minimising accountants or emigrating? Has anyone done the sums?

THE Guardian, with its uncanny knack of focusing on the issues that matter to real people, delivers a piece headlined: "Brexit chisels away any right Britain had to the Parthenon marbles." Why, in Wolverhampton they talk of little else...

AND then you see Ms Gina Miller's list of 'all the options': 1) Leave the EU under the Chequers plan. 2) Leave the EU with no agreed deal. 3) Stay in the EU. You don't need a degree in maths to notice that this three-way poll effectively keeps the Remain vote intact while dividing the Leave vote, thus handing an 11th-hour victory to the Remainers. No-one doubts that Ms Miller is well educated and intelligent. But she seems to think the rest of us are as thick as mince.

IT is a good idea to invite the German president to the Cenotaph on Armistice Day. Even if we don't know who he is. Even if we weren't aware that Germany had a president. We should invite the President, who is Frank-Walter Steinmeier, for two good reasons. Firstly, it will draw

a veil over generations of mistrust and blood-letting between Britain and Germany, two very similar nations who, left to their own devices, get on rather well. Secondly, it will irritate the hell out of the French.

WE set off on a walk, following the footpaths through farmland near Chateau Rhodes. Entering one field, we met two cows, three calves and a bull the size of a house. I seem to recall reading in a book that mixed-sex and mixed-generation groups like this are settled, content and harmless. And then the bull started bellowing and we fled. I don't think the bull had read the same book.

A CZECH politician, V ra Jourová, who is the European Union's Justice Commissioner, has taken offence at the British media's treatment of the Salzburg summit. She is outraged at the Sun's headline describing European leaders as "EU Dirty Rats." This, she says, makes the case for "a European approach to media based on quality and smart regulation, if needed." Or as we English call it, censorship. But there is a culture gap here. Foreigners see the term "dirty rats" and filthy, disease-ridden rodents. Brits instantly recognise it as a joke. "You dirty rats" was James Cagney's immortal line in Each Dawn I Die (1939), and has been parodied by comedians from Morecambe & Wise to Dad's Army. Don't you find it chilling that foreign politicians could advocate controlling the British Press to protect the EU from criticism? Especially foreigners who know nothing of Eric and Ernie and have never heard of Private Pike.

TALKING POINT



Tolerance going up in a puff of vapour

WE'VE all seen it – and what's more pertinent, smelt it. Vaping – I mean, what's that all about?

As a former smoker, I may have been poacher-turned-gamekeeper at times, complaining about the stink on the clothes of people who indulge in ciggies.

At least though, I can see the point of smoking, with an actual taste that is pretty unique, even if there are differences between your Marlborough and the classic Benson and Hedges. But having been smoke-free myself for nigh on 30 years, I still like the smell of smoking itself if I am situated near to puffed-out plumes. Perhaps it's a nostalgia thing.

It was never a good idea for an asthmatic like me to smoke anyway, and I follow a long line of my family who smoked despite suffering with the condition. It still rankles that at any point I have to mention something to a health worker, it comes up that I am an ex-smoker, despite the fact that presumably, after so long being 'clean', whatever damage I did to my lungs is now academic.

But it is the vapers (no not the 'I Think I'm Turning Japanese' fellows – ask your dad!) that I have a beef with.

All of a sudden, they're everywhere, creating their own huge clouds of disgusting fruit-flavoured yuckiness. And they don't realise how silly they look with this Kazoo-like pipe thing stuck in their gobs. Obviously, this takes on a whole new tack when you're trying to eat a meal in a pub which hasn't as-of-yet outlawed the practice within its environs.

Tucking into a juicy steak whilst at the same time inhaling cherry-flavoured ooze can be nausea-inducing.

I can't get my head around the fact, that if these people were smokers at one point, they go from the pretty standard tobacco flavour, to whatever it is they now stick in their devices – which can be anything from strawberry sherbert to cola. Literally thousands are available, and you can even buy lucky dip bags!

I remember once, on a health kick as a young man, I thought herbal cigarettes was the way to go and bought a pack from the local chemists. Uggh! They were disgusting, and yet now people seem to be clamouring for a similar experience.

In time, the true extent of any damage to health by vaping will come to light and then the manufacturers will have to think of other ways to market their products. Who knows, maybe then they will start making boiled sweets from their e-liquids instead... mmm, blackcurrant liquorice humbug anyone?

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Hypo awareness call by diabetes charity

DIABETES UK wants to shine a spotlight on hypos. Hypos affect nearly everyone with Type 1 diabetes, and some people with Type 2 diabetes, who use insulin or other diabetes medication.

A hypo is when the blood sugars drop too low, usually below 4mmol/l. This can happen for various reasons, including taking too much insulin or other diabetes medication, missing a meal or not eating enough carbs, unplanned physical activity, or even hot weather.

For many people living with diabetes, hypos are part of life. But this shouldn't be the case because hypos can be scary and dangerous. They can lead to blurred vision, confusion, seizures and, in severe cases, unconsciousness and coma.

That's why they must be treated quickly with fast-acting sugar, so that blood sugar levels rise again.

Good hypo treatments include sugary drinks (not diet versions), fruit juice or sweets like jelly babies. Treatments that are not as effective, are

chocolate (the fat in chocolate means the sugar takes longer to get into the blood) and whole fruit like a banana (the fibre slows down absorption of the sugar).

If someone tells you they have diabetes and are having a hypo, you can help them to find or get a sugary drink or some sweets, and if they become unconscious call an ambulance.

For more information, go to www.diabetes.org.uk/hypo-aware
PETER SHORRICK
Diabetes UK Midlands

Comments on Brexit are absurd

RE: R Watts' letter (September 20) criticising Peter Rhodes for living in the past. I consider when one looks back over the numerous letters by him, I find it hypocritical.

In his latest tirade, yet again he reverts to India, Africa etc, condemning the UK for acts carried out centuries ago.

A question for R Watts: What improvement have we seen after all these years of aid in Africa where present aid is retained by corrupt officials, particularly in government or presidency?

Re: Brexit, his comments are really absurd and baseless, obviously, he, like his fellow remaners, consider me and 17.4 million voters to be of an inferior intellect, unable to make an assessment of a corrupt establishment that the EU is. If you, obviously, cannot accept the decision then please endeavour to take up a hobby that does not include writing to the Chronicle!

R SAUNDERS
Walsall

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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graeme.andrew@expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

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Great idea of bus to catch mobile morons

At last, someone in authority displaying some common sense – in this case, the chief constable of West Midlands Police, with the use of a double decker bus to catch drivers illegally using their mobile phones whilst driving.

The perpetrators know full well they are breaking the law and it is their freedom of choice to do so, we don't live under a dictatorship, but how extremely selfish at these morons to flout the law with absolutely no thought for the safety of others. In my view it is their prerogative to risk their own lives by their stupid actions and they are welcome to do so but not at the expense of others, causing the deaths of innocent drivers and their passengers.

It is blatantly obvious that the misuse of mobile phones in this way is just as addictive as taking drugs.

PAULINE POOLE
Willenhall

U3A to help folk facing loneliness

IN response to the letter from Mr Alan Davis about loneliness in the older age range may I draw your readers' attention to the Walsall U3A group.

We have over 400 members (retired and semi retired) paying an annual fee of only £12.

In addition to a monthly talk and refreshments members organise over 30 interest group meetings covering most days of the week, including a singles' Sunday lunch.

Groups range from history to knitting and from gardening to science and there is always scope for someone to start a new one.

We are extremely friendly and welcoming, and if you live outside Walsall there will definitely be a group near you.

There is no need to be lonely – check out the u3a! Our website is u3asites.org.uk/Walsall.

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Manor sees increase in unexpected deaths rate

MORE than 150 patients died unexpectedly at Manor Hospital in 2017/18, an increase from the year before.

Figures from NHS Digital show Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust recorded 1,682 deaths at the hospital, or within 30 days of discharge in the financial year.

But according to estimates there should have been 1,519. It means there were 11 per cent more deaths than expected.

This compares to 2016/17 when there were 1,626 deaths, six per cent more than the 1,541 estimated.

The trust's medical director, Amir Khan, said the deaths were investigated.

He said: "There are a wide range of factors that contribute to mortality rates which is why we work with partners across Walsall's health economy to prioritise preventative work among people of all ages who use our services. We analyse all cases in accordance with national policy."

The figures come from a report called Summary Hospital-level Mortality In-

Report by Alex Ross

dicator. Estimates of deaths are calculated by the characteristics of patients cared at each hospital.

Despite recording an 11 per cent unexpected death rate, the health trust falls within the 'as expected' category given by NHS Digital, which goes up to 12 per cent.

The rate of unexpected deaths has also gone up at Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust, which runs New Cross Hospital, where there were 480 more deaths than expected.

The trust has the second highest unexpected death rate in the country.

The rate also rose at Sandwell and West Birmingham NHS Trust, which runs Sandwell Hospital.

Gutted caravan left



The remains of the caravan in Noose Crescent

THE charred remains of a caravan destroyed in a fire have been abandoned in a road. The discovery was made in Noose Crescent, Willenhall, and Walsall Council were made aware of the caravan only to discover later it had been set on fire.

A Walsall Council spokesman said: "The caravan in Noose Crescent was reported to us yesterday morning. An officer from Clean and Green inspected the caravan yesterday, as per our abandoned vehicles procedure and the caravan was duly 'stickered' to indicate that, if not claimed by the owner, it would be removed within 24 hours.

"When the site was visited this morning, the caravan had been set on fire overnight."

Firm on tap with refills

WATER and waste company Severn Trent, which supplies most of the West Midlands, has signed up to a national water refill initiative which will see free fill-up points in every major city in England by 2021.

The company, with its headquarters in Coventry, has teamed up with not-for-profit organisation City to Sea to launch the Refill Scheme for people across the Midlands.

It allows people to fill up reusable water bottles for free at businesses, such as pubs, restaurants and cafes, which sign up as refill stations.

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Tennis club members say they shall return

A CENTURY-OLD tennis club is down but not out after being made homeless to make way for new homes.

Walsall Tennis Club has been founded 106 years ago and has occupied the same site on Birmingham Road for a century.

It has remained open after its landlords have continued to renew leases – but closed its courts last Wednesday because the site has been earmarked for redevelopment.

Chairman Brian McBride said it was a sad day for the club and its 130 members. He said: "We've occupied the same site for 100 years but the club's landlords wanted to sell the land, which they did."

"The new owners are planning to redevelop the land because there are severe pressures to build new homes in Walsall and the council has to free up more land."

Mr McBride said the move did not mean it was game, set and match for the club and members were determined to rise like a phoenix from the flames.

He said they were in touch with Walsall Council and Sport England over a plan to create five new courts across the borough.

"We have to seek another venue. The club is not closing, even though we have no place to go to and are effectively homeless. We retain our identity and will play away fixtures. Next season we'll be playing home games over at Tipton Sports Academy. So at least our team players can fly the flag and some of our social events will take place. The message is clear. We are down but not out and the fight continues. If anything, now that we're homeless we'll be coming back harder."



Tennis club member of 56 years, Roger Ince, front centre, with other players

Hamper project success

A HAMPER project launched in the summer to help households struggling with the cost of feeding their families has been hailed a success after hundreds of food parcels were delivered.

Midlands landlord whg set up the Schools' Out scheme to support families feeling the financial strain of school holidays. A recent government report estimated that around three million children in the UK are at risk

of going hungry over the school holidays, as families, especially those who would normally receive free school meals for their children, struggle with additional costs.

As part of the project whg delivered more than 100 hampers to some of Walsall's most vulnerable families.

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Overhaul planned for major route into city

ONE of the busiest routes into Wolverhampton is set for a major revamp – with 8,000 new homes and 12,000 jobs set to be created.

The congested Willenhall Road, which runs along the A454, is a key route into and out of the city and a direct link that is used by more than 20,000 vehicles every day.

It helps to connect people to the city and surrounding areas of the Black Country via the M6. Now, areas of the route have been earmarked by Wolverhampton Council for improvements that will see congestion eased.

Under the proposals, thousands of jobs and new homes will also be created, according to the local authority. The plans, which come under the Black Country Core Strategy regeneration scheme, will now go out to public consultation.

Improve

Councillor Steve Evans, cabinet member for city environment, said: "As a council, we understand the need for road improvements in the area – not only to reduce delays and improve traffic flow but to make way for further improvements we have planned.

"Improving the road network in the area will support the city's wider regeneration scheme and hopefully encourage more businesses to invest in our city, benefit residents and attract more visitors to the city centre. I strongly encourage anyone who uses the Willenhall Road corridor to have their say in our consultation, to help us make the right choice on improving one of our key gateways into our vibrant city."

The Willenhall Road was highlighted by council bosses earlier this year as a key area for regeneration alongside Stafford Road and Birmingham Road.

Busy Bees lands accolade



The Lord-Lieutenant of Staffordshire, Ian Dudson, with, from left, Mary Randles and Simon Irons, with parents and youngsters at Busy Bees

A CHILDCARE provider is celebrating after receiving royal recognition. Busy Bees, based in Burntwood, near Brownhills, was handed the inaugural Queen's Award for Enterprise: Promoting Opportunity.

The award was presented by The Lord Lieutenant of Staffordshire,

Ian Dudson, at its flagship nursery in the town.

The royal accolade, handed out on the Queen's 92 birthday, recognises the childcare provider's social mobility programme and commitment to quality training for early years apprentices. The flagship nursery will now fly the Queen's Award flag.

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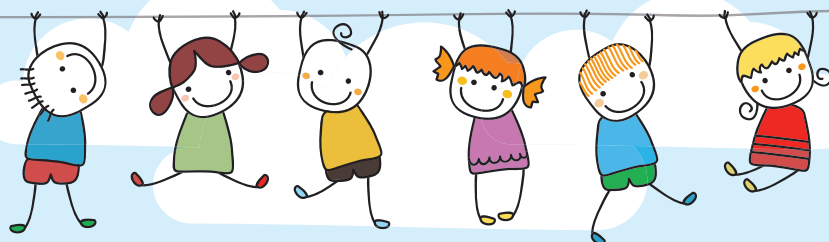
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Copper load of this – lucky, lucky, lucky Pc



One of the officers poses with Kylie Minogue

MEET a very famous pop star in the street? These coppers should be so lucky!

It was Love at First Sight for these officers patrolling Birmingham city centre, who were stunned after spotting Kylie Minogue while doing their rounds.

They even managed to get a selfie with the Can't Get You Out Of My Head star.

Kylie performed at the Genting Arena – soon to be re-branded as Resorts World Arena – on Saturday September 23, and the 'lucky, lucky, lucky' officers managed to grab the photograph the day after, while she was out exploring the city.

The Walsall Taskforce police Twitter account posted a photo on social media with the message: "I should be so lucky!! Walsall Taskforce on patrol in Birmingham city centre last weekend. 'Lovely to see Kylie Minogue in Birmingham last weekend! Made our day!'"

Emergency teams may work out of two bases

POLICE emergency teams could be based at just two locations in the Black Country leading to fears some towns and villages will see slower response times.

Wolverhampton and Brierley Hill would be the only two bases with around 200 officers relocated from stations in Bloxwich and West Bromwich.

The plan would see officers start and end shifts at one of the two bases and work remotely thanks to technological advancements. But West Midlands Police Federation chairman Sergeant Richard Cooke said he was against the plan to move response teams – made up of officers who react to 999 calls and round-the-clock emergencies.

Sgt Cooke said: "I think it is unrealistic to have officers leave their station and spend their whole shift out on the patch.

"There will be a natural skew of officers to their bases because they will want to finish on time and they will not want to be isolated. It will mean areas like Wolverhampton will have more officers than Walsall,

Report by Alex Ross

while places like Aldridge could see response times increase."

Walsall North MP Eddie Hughes also has concerns. He said: "I'm really concerned about proposals to move police response from Walsall to Wolverhampton. Having spoken to both of officers and constituents I know many people share my concerns."

The idea is one of many being considered by West Midlands Police as part of its six-year estates plan. Earlier this year the force announced it was closing 24 police stations, including eight in the Black Country.

There are just 10 stations with public counters left in the West Midlands.

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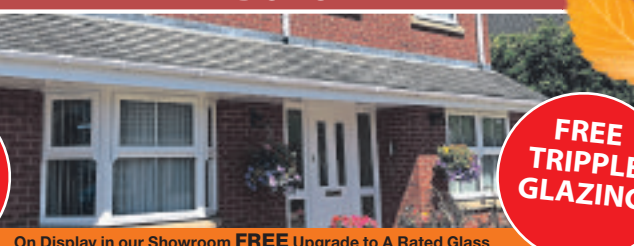
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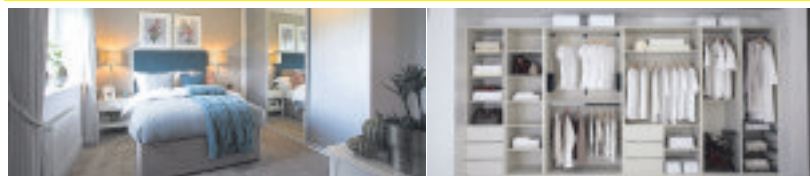
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Concerns over lack of exercise

NEARLY a third of adults in Walsall get less than half an hour of exercise a week, according to a new study, sparking obesity fears.

Walsall Council will push a new healthy living plan after statistics on adults' exercise caused alarm among experts. A total of 28.7 per cent of adults in Walsall get less than 30 minutes of exercise a week.

A report said the authority would 'enable access and use of green spaces to improve health and wellbeing and reduce social isolation'.

Health leaders have been desperate to try to tackle the region's obesity crisis over recent years. Council leader Mike Bird said something has to change to encourage more people to take up regular exercise.

A weekly programme of treks, Walsall Walk On, is held across the borough to boost residents' health.

Barr Beacon and other areas of green open space feature in the Pheasey health walk, held every Thursday, from 2.15pm.

Meet at Collingwood Centre's main entrance, Collingwood Drive at 2pm. It lasts an hour-and-a-half for two-to-four miles.

Participants are urged to wear sturdy shoes.

New school's goal – to find jobs for students

A NEW school will offer a lasting legacy of the Ladder apprenticeship campaign when it opens its doors to students in January.

The Ladder School in Walsall is a specialist alternative provision school and is the brainchild of one of the founders of the Express & Star-backed Ladder for the Black Country.

The school will help students that need specialist support and may be at risk of permanent exclusion.

It is determined to raise students' aspirations and provide sufficient academic and vocational qualifications for later life.

The school, which will spend its first five terms in temporary accommodation in Millennium House, Lower Lane, is being driven by Kevin Davis, chief executive of Walsall-based charity The Vine Trust Group.

Figurehead

The main premises, aiming to open its doors in September 2020, is on the Shannon Mill site in the town centre which has been derelict since a blaze destroyed a listed Victorian mill in 2007.

Mr Davis is a leading figurehead behind the Ladder for the Black Country campaign, which has created more than 1,000 apprenticeships across the region.

Ladder School principal Chris Bury



Principal Chris Bury



Vine Trust Group chief executive Kevin Davis

started on September 1 and will spend the first term finalising staff recruitment ahead of the launch in the new year.

For now, the former assistant head at Hednesford's Kingsmead School and teacher at Cannock Chase High is excited about the prospect of helping youngsters have a positive direction.

"It's absolutely great to be a part of it," said Mr Bury, aged 31.

Forty Year 9, 10 and 11 students will join from January with a projected total of 112 in time for the 2019/20 academic year, starting in September. The Ladder School, backed by the Department of Education, falls under the

banner of the Mercian Trust. Mr Davis said: "Having created two previous 'vocational' schools, I felt there was a need to transform Alternative Provision, to better prepare young people for life."

Mr Bury explained how students who have struggled with behaviour and learning elsewhere, will progress at the Ladder.

All will study English, maths and science, with three vocational pathways: a talent pathway of art, performing arts and sport; a development route with child studies, animal care and catering; an industry path of ICT, enterprise and travel and tourism.

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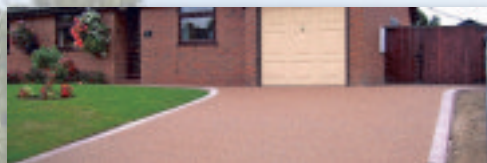
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MEP hits out on refusal to name bomb suspects

The Chronicle
Thursday, October 4, 2018

A WEST Midlands MEP has hit out after it was ruled that the suspects from the Birmingham pub bombings will not be named at fresh inquests. Judges at the Court of Appeal ruled on the decision over the 1974 murders which killed 21 people. James Carver, an independent Member of the European Parliament for the region, said: "There's little point to resuming a public inquest into the murder of these 21 innocent people if all the information concerning the atrocity cannot be brought to light. "The alleged perpetrators of this outrage should be identified, criminal investigations pursued, hopefully leading to prosecutions and final justice for the victims and their families." As well as the 21 who died another 182 people were injured in the atrocity which hit the Mulberry Bush and Tavern In The Town pubs. Six men were originally jailed but their convictions were declared unsafe and unsatisfactory, and quashed in 1991.

Escaped prisoner high on ecstasy broke back in stolen Audi smash

AN escaped prisoner high on ecstasy broke his back when he smashed a stolen Audi into a wall in the Black Country. Shocked residents rushed from their homes as the Quattro TT was destroyed in the crash in Broadway West. The sports car was nicked by serial thief Andrew Twist, formerly of Leys Crescent, Brierley Hill, after he fled from HMP Sudbury in Derbyshire on May 7. He ransacked a home near the prison and stole £1,500 in cash, two laptops, jewellery, perfume, a passport and an air rifle before demanding the car keys when the owner returned. But the crook was badly hurt when he was thrown through the windscreen by the force of the crash.



Police at the scene of the Audi TT crash in Broadway West, Walsall

Twist, who was serving a four-year jail term for dangerous driving and other crimes at the time, was jailed for three years at Derby Crown Court. Passing sentence, Judge Nirmal Shant QC told him: "You have a bad record for driving and little regard for other road users. "You took advantage of being in an open prison by walking out." Ian Way, prosecuting, said Twist, now of HMP Nottingham, was at HMP Sudbury reaching the end of his four-year sentence when he took the psychoactive drug MDMA and walked out. He said he then walked to a property in Derbyshire, where he smashed a window with a brick. The female occupier of the house arrived back and saw a man in the driveway, loading up a van with her belongings. "He then demanded she hand over the keys to an Audi TT sports car, which she did before raising the alarm with neighbours. Mr Way said: "Having taken the car, the defendant then drove to Walsall and was seen by a number of witnesses driving at speed for a short distance, in Broadway, where he crossed a junction and then hit a wall. "The car came to rest and he was seen to have been ejected from the car

with one witness describing him 'flying out' of it." Twist was arrested and answered "no comment" to the questions he was asked. But he later pleaded guilty to escaping from lawful custody, burglary, aggravated vehicle taking, driving while disqualified, without insurance and failing to provide a specimen of breath for analysis. Dan Church, for Twist, said his client was a former bricklayer who had been offence-free between 2003 and 2009 when he was in a settled and stable relationship. But he began offending again when that relationship broke down. As well as the jail term, Judge Shant banned Twist from driving for 18 months and handed him an additional 18-month extended licence, meaning it will be at least three years before he will be able to retake his test.

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Range Rover car crashes into wall



The Range Rover following the crash into a wall situated in Walsall Road. Credit: @WillenhallFire

A RANGE Rover has hit a wall in a street in Walsall, with one man assessed by paramedics at the scene.

Fire crews from Walsall and Willenhall, West Midlands Ambulance Service and officers from West Midlands Police attended the scene at 10.52am on Thursday.

A spokesperson for West Midlands Fire Service said: "We received a 999 call at 10.52am today. It was to reports of a vehicle into a wall. We sent a crew from Walsall and a crew from Willenhall to the scene.

"One man was assessed by paramedics at the scene. Police were also in attendance and they arranged recovery of the vehicle. We said the vehicle was safe and we left the scene in the hands of the police. We left at 12.08pm."

The four-by-four hit a wall and metal fence at a low speed. A spokesperson for West Midlands Ambulance Service said: "We have assessed a 35-year-old gentleman at the scene and he was discharged."

Phoenix 10 to rise after funding bid is secured

A MULTI-MILLION pound regeneration of a derelict former copper works is a step closer thanks to crucial funding.

The Phoenix 10 scheme would see a 44-acre industrial site at the Phoenix 10 base near Darlaston redeveloped, creating hundreds of jobs.

Walsall Council has been given the go-ahead to secure a grant agreement for the project – in the region of millions of pounds – by business bosses at the Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership.

By Megan Archer

ways wanted to do, but it's just never happened.

"We have the winning post in sight and hope we will see work taking place soon."

The large area of land sits near Junction 9 and Junction 10 of the M6 and was formerly used as an IMI refinery.

It has been lying derelict for almost 15 years, and Councillor Bird said if the project went ahead it would offer hundreds of commercial and industrial jobs.

The £60m redevelopment will be led by Henry Boot Developments Ltd and it is hoped work will commence in early 2019. Phoenix 10 is the key site within the Black Country Enterprise Zone.

Digging

Council leader Mike Bird said it was a step in the right direction. "We're moving closer to machinery coming in and workers digging holes now," he said.

"This is probably the biggest regeneration scheme in the Black Country."

"It's something we have been working on for more than 10 years, and it's going to bring a substantial amount of employment."

"The site has been lying dormant and derelict for for at least 10 to 15 years and it's something we've al-

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M6 link choice 'a game changer for the region'

DRIVERS travelling through the Midlands are set to benefit from a new multi-million-pound route announced by Highways England.

The new route linking the M54 to the M6 is set to slash up to 30 minutes off journeys for regular commuters each week.

It promises to take about 22,000 vehicles a day from the A460, making that major road less congested.

It will also ease congestion on the A449 and A5 by separating local traffic from long-distance and commuter traffic, and overall the impact on congestion will boost the regional economy, according to Highways England.

The route was chosen after a consultation that saw nearly three quarters of respondents give it the thumbs-up.

Feedback

Project manager Andrew Kelly, from Highways England, said: "We were really pleased to have so much feedback during the consultation, and this route was the clear winner. Once completed, it will also relieve traffic congestion on the A460, A449 and A5, improve safety and support economic growth for the Midlands."

Currently, the M54 merges with the M6 southbound at junction 10a.

This means northbound traffic must leave the motorway network and take other routes to connect with the M6 north at junction 11 or 12 or the toll road at junction T8.

Highways England consulted on three options for a new route, and will now take forward its preferred route, which is based on Option B West.

This option is the shortest route, providing the best journey time of the options.

Once complete, the new route will



A map showing the preferred route, in green, which is based on Option B West

include: ● A two-lane dual carriage-way link road between M54 junction 1 and M6 junction 11

● An improved junction arrangement at M54 junction 1 and M6 junction 11

A public exhibition is being staged tomorrow (Friday) from 2-7pm in the main function room at Essington Community Centre, in Hobnack Road, and on Saturday from 10am to 5pm in

the council chamber at the same venue. Essington parish council chairman David Clift voiced mixed feelings over the scheme, citing fears over a loss of community.

He said: "On one hand we're over the moon as it's the best possible outcome for us. But there's no cause for celebration when neighbouring communities and parts of Hilton Hall will be destroyed and lost forever."

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Holidays



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ANDRÉ RIEU

at the Echo Arena, Liverpool

Departing Friday 14 Dec

Violin master André Rieu has announced a new UK 2018 tour including a date at the Echo Arena in Liverpool! See the 'King of Waltz' perform with his 60-piece Johann Strauss Orchestra where he will play songs from his repertoire alongside Christmas carols.

Your break includes

- ✓ Return coach travel from Walsall & Wolverhampton
- ✓ Overnight stay at a selected hotel with breakfast
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- ✓ En-route visit to Manchester Christmas Market

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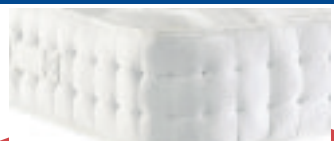
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and your spouse/partner each leave your half share of the home to the children in Trust, but state that they are not to receive it during the lifetime of the surviving spouse/partner.

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ELO saying hello to Jeff's home crowd

Birmingham rock legend Jeff Lynne will return to his home city for a run of three shows at the city centre's Arena on October 10, 12 and 13.

Jeff Lynne has breathed new life into his band in recent years, since playing for Children In Need in 2013. He returned to live action the following year and in 2015 he released his first new music in 14 years, *Alone in the Universe*, which was his band's 13th album and earned a platinum disc after reaching the UK top five.

ELO had previously sold more than 50 million records worldwide and enjoyed huge success during the 1970s and 1980s when they enjoyed 20 top 20 UK hits plus 15 hits on the US Billboard Hot 100.

Lynne was blown away by the reaction when ELO played Hyde Park in 2014 – a show that sold out in 15 minutes.

Within a year, Lynne's ELO had played at the Grammy Awards for the first time, performing *Evil Woman* and *Mr Blue Sky*, and in summer 2016 the band played the Pyramid Stage at the Glastonbury Festival. Last year Lynne's ELO played Wembley Stadium, having been inducted into The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

"I was a little worried about Wembley," said Jeff. "But our fans are the best because they not only showed up, they sang along with all their hearts."

"I will never forget standing on stage, looking at that audience and hearing the sound of 60,000 of them singing my tunes – and sounding great, I might add."

Stand-up comic Josh Pugh in action



Feeling free to laugh

Birmingham Comedy Festival returns next week with a line-up including Ab Fab's Joanna Lumley, Rich Hall, Jimeoin, James Acaster, Tom Binns, Robin Ince and lots more.

Established in 2001, the annual festival has welcomed some of the biggest names in stand-up comedy and was set up to highlight the city's vibrant, but then largely unsung, comedy scene.

The 2018 festival kicks off with the EG Birmingham Comedy Festival Breaking

Talent Award 2018 at the Glee Club tomorrow (Friday). Competing are West Bromwich's Laura Monmoth, Brummie NHS worker Sham Zaman, Hall Green duo Good Kids (teachers Kieran Ahern and Tom Dowling), Stoke's Phil Carr and Staffs comic Adam Beardsmore.

Also returning are the festival's popular Free Half-Dayers on successive Sundays (October 7 and 14) featuring 16 Edinburgh Fringe style one-hour shows – it's like a festival within the festival. The events take place at Cherry Reds and The Victoria pub from 1.15pm, both on John Bright Street, near Grand Central.

Events this Sunday include a revival of 1960s radio show *Round The Horne*, plus Good Kids, Lindsey Santoro and Aaron Twitchen, as well as Dudley's Danndy Clives, Tom Ham, Alex Hylton, Jay Handley and Star Trek devotee Rik Carranza. The following Sunday features The Elvis Dead creator Rob Kemp with his new show, comedy troupe Fat Penguin Improv, Coronation Street's Gareth Berliner, plus Josh Pugh and Phil Pagett's Knowledge Club, among others.

See www.bhamcomfest.co.uk for more details.

Rock and reggae on gig agenda

Reggae veteran Toots Hibbert brings his Maytals to Digbeth's O2 Institute on Wednesday (Oct 10).

Toots and the Maytals were formed in 1960s Jamaica and helped coin the name reggae with their 1968 ska hit *Do the Reggay*. Their hits include *Bam Bam*, *Monkey Man*, *54-46 That's My Number*, *Pressure Drop* and *Funky Kingston*.

Tomorrow (Friday), The Coral are at the Institute following the release of new album *Move Through The Dawn*. That's the same night London quartet Stereo Honey play the Sunflower Lounge in Brum city centre. Over in Kings Heath, ex-member of The Beautiful South, Alison Wheeler, sings their songs as part of *The South at the Hare & Hounds*.

Following Genesis guitarist Steve Hackett's sold out show at Symphony Hall tomorrow, a Genesis Extravaganza is staged by The Musical Box at the same venue on Saturday. Stourbridge heavy metal heroes Diamond Head rock the Robin in Bilston on Saturday and Black Country blues queen, Joanne Shaw Taylor, has sold out her homecoming show at the Robin on Sunday.

Scottish trio Fatherson, who have released new album *Sum Of All Your Parts*, play the Sunflower Lounge on Saturday.

Sunday sees Californian pop-punk band The Story So Far at the Institute. Former Spandau Ballet singer Tony Hadley croons at Symphony Hall on Monday.

On the tribute scene, Whole Lotta DC play the Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton, on Saturday and Black Country Beatles are at the Robin next Friday (Oct 12).

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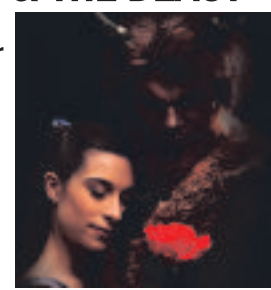
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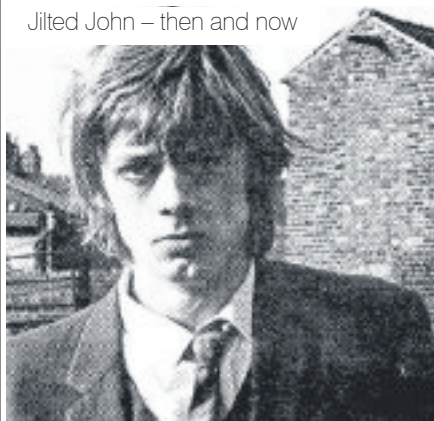
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Jilted John – then and now



'Ere we go... 2... 3... 40! Jilted John has returned

To celebrate Jilted John's 40th anniversary and relive the summer of '78 that saw millions chanting 'Gordon is a moron', actor and musician Graham Fellows is recreating his first comic creation.

He is going on tour with a band in tow and brings the 'Ere We Go 2... 3... 40! show to Wolverhampton's Slade Rooms on Friday, October 12, on what will be the one-hit-wonder's

first tour. The punk comedy classic about John's dismal love life was voted Best One Hit Wonder of All Time by listeners to Steve Lamacq's 6 Music show, and will be performed alongside other favourites from the True Love Stories album.

Fellows was a drama student in Manchester when Jilted John took off. He later had a role in Coronation Street and created comedy character John Shuttleworth, who featured in several BBC Radio 4 series.

On his big hit, Graham says: "It was

a series of happy accidents. I wrote the song in the canteen of my drama school. Someone showed me how to tune the guitar to an open chord to create that distinctive riff. I did a few demos. I went to see these hippies who had a record label and were releasing stuff by the Buzzcocks. They agreed to record it. The whole thing must have cost £200."

Support at Wolverhampton will come from another one hit wonder, John Otway, who charted in 1977 with Really Free.

Joanna says it's going to be absolutely fabulous

Joanna Lumley will bring her first ever live tour, It's All About Me, to Birmingham's Symphony Hall on Tuesday.

She will take the full-house audience through her hilarious and fascinating adventures, recounting some never-heard-before stories.

She will be joined on stage by friend and producer Clive Tulloh, who will put to Joanna questions from the audience.

Joanna said: "It's utterly thrilling to start planning the stories I can tell, and the rapture – and gratitude, to be fair – with which I shall greet the audiences. Nothing like this has come my way before, and I may have to be dragged off with a hook at the end of each show. I think it will be fabulous."

TV presenter, traveller, actor and all-round national treasure, Joanna first burst onto our screens as Purdey in The New Avengers in 1976, also creating an iconic hairstyle, going on to star in Sapphire & Steel.

Before that she had roles in Are You Being Served?, Coronation Street, in film as a victim of Christopher Lee's Dracula and as a Bond girl opposite George Lazenby in On Her Majesty's Secret Service.

She became a comedy legend with her Bafta-award winning creation Patsy Stone in Absolutely Fabulous opposite Jennifer Saunders.

From the swinging sixties up to her globe-trotting TV documentaries, Joanna will have many tales to tell in a gallop through almost 50 years in show business.



Joanna Lumley

Cirque Du Soleil stage latest egg-travaganza | Guests have the write stuff for literature festival

Cirque Du Soleil, the world's biggest circus, is back in Birmingham this week when the international troupe bring Ovo to Arena Birmingham.

Ovo, meaning 'egg' in Portuguese, is a headlong rush into a colourful eco-system teeming with life, where insects work, eat, crawl, flutter, play, fight and look for love in a non-stop riot of energy and movement.

Having entertained more than five million people worldwide since the show premiered in Montreal in 2009 as a Big Top show, Ovo embarks on a world tour with an even bigger production. It features 50 acrobats, trapeze artists and clowns in the bizarre, colourful costumes that Cirque is famous for.

The show opened last night (Wednesday) and continues until Sunday with 8pm performances plus matinees on Saturday and Sunday. Tickets start from £52.75. The Birmingham performances will mark the last UK dates of the European tour.

Wolverhampton-born chef and author Nigel Slater and Wolverhampton-raised columnist and best-selling author Caitlin Moran feature in Birmingham Literature Festival.

Poet Liz Berry, from Sedgley, will appear in a National Poetry Day event today (Thursday) at 5.30pm in Royal Birmingham Conservatoire, to start the festival which runs until October 14. The new Poet Laureate and Young Poet Laureate for Birmingham will be announced at the event.

Caitlin Moran is in conversation with journalist Sali Hughes in the conservatoire's Bradshaw Hall tomorrow (Friday) and the event has sold out. Nigel Slater and Ravinder Bhogal will discuss their passion for food and writing on October 14 at The Studio, Birmingham Rep, at 3.30pm, introduced by Wulfrunian Sathnam Sanghera, best-selling author of The Boy with the Topknot. Other speakers at the festival will include comedian Alexei Sayle, musician Viv Albertine and broadcaster Lauren Laverne. See www.birminghamliteraturefestival.org

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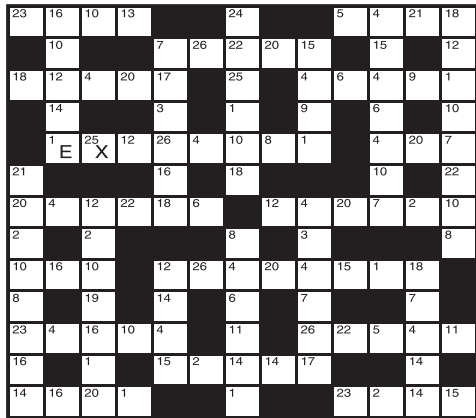
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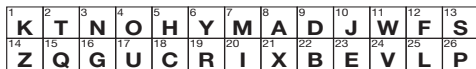
No.500

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:



Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues – both fit the same grid.

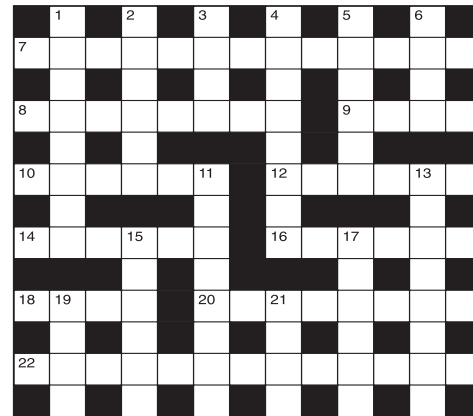
Cryptic Clues:

Across

7. Order climbing down to be in unbroken line (6,7)
8. Disgusted leader is to command unruliness (8)
9. What cats and racing drivers have in common (4)
10. Ancient Greek coin which indicates its value? (6)
12. Take out cover when at home, certainly (6)
14. Accommodation for those inside (6)
16. Narrow-minded because needing fresh air? (6)
18. Cab obtained, thanks to team (4)
20. More than 1000 run because of error in newspaper (8)
22. Bulb production as opposed to heavy engineering? (5,8)

Down

1. Parson is one in large church (8)
2. News item about the left (6)
3. Fastener for breeding establishment (4)
4. Corresponding opening using expensive knights? (4,4)
5. For weighing parts of fish? (6)
6. Break up things in the kitchen (4)
11. Telephone chief for section of electricity supply system (4,4)
13. Petrol producer, for example, again takes showy ornaments (8)
15. Trivial insult (6)
17. Trouble for the United Nations and the others (6)
19. Since including team, things revolve round it (4)
21. One aspect of the team (4)



Quick Clues:

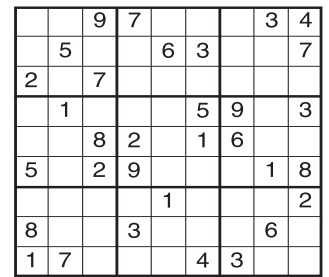
Across

7. Ignominious (13)
8. Lees (8)
9. Kind (4)
10. Amuse (6)
12. Toboggan (6)
14. Improved (6)
16. Eatable (6)
18. Space (4)
20. Power (8)
22. Compliant (13)

Down

1. Vital cord (8)
2. Writer (6)
3. Small valley (4)
4. Aversion (8)
5. Cloak (6)
6. Smack (4)
11. Irritating (8)
13. Jelly-like substance (8)
15. Hoyden (6)
17. Kindle (6)
19. Formerly (4)
21. Impolite (4)

Sudoku



Fill in the grid above so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

4	9	1	7	8	2	6	5	3
2	5	7	3	4	6	9	8	1
8	3	6	9	1	5	4	2	7
3	2	8	4	7	9	5	1	6
7	4	9	5	6	1	8	3	2
6	1	5	2	3	8	7	9	4
9	6	2	1	5	7	3	4	8
5	8	4	6	2	3	1	7	9
1	7	3	8	9	4	2	6	5

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:
CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Curb; 8 Electorate; 9 Testable; 10 Soda; 12 Stupor; 14 Siding; 15 Skater; 17 Rushes; 18 Wren; 19 Tomhawk; 21 Call to arms; 22 Take. Down: 2 Undertaker; 3 Beat; 4 Member; 5 Athens; 6 Presides; 7 Beta; 11 Donkey-work; 13 Patently; 16 Ration; 17 Remark; 18 Wick; 20 Host.
QUICK - Across: 1 Tiff; 8 Exuberance; 9 Maternal; 10 Hook; 12 Punish; 14 Relent; 15 Bandit; 17 Perish; 18 Reel; 19 Ecstatic; 21 Pugnacious; 22 Oath. Down: 2 Immaculate; 3 Fete; 4 Quench; 5 Pedlar; 6 Bachelor; 7 Seek; 11 Omniscient; 13 Indolent; 16 Trench; 17 Pastor; 18 Rope; 20 Also.

Quiz

1. Who wrote the libretto for Stravinsky's opera The Rake's Progress?
2. What type of creature is an argonaut?
3. What may be real, complex or rational?
4. For what is the panther another name?
5. On which river is Indianapolis?
6. In which country is Sucre?
7. What is the name of the sun's faint halo, visible at solar eclipses?
8. In which Irish county are Macgillycuddy's Reeks?
9. What is fescue?
10. Which best-selling thriller writer died in February 1995?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Robert Bolt; 2 An eel; 3 Orestes; 4 Liverpool; 5 Peter Pan; 6 Ocean water; 7 Shark; 8 Mariner 2; 9 Klapka; 10 New York.

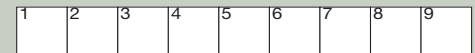
Niner: INTERPLAY

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

453467
4517
9287

gives a colour,
gives a second colour,
gives colour.



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AT YOUR LEISURE

CHOICE



Troubles: The Life After (BBC2, 9.30pm)
An intimate account of the Troubles in Northern Ireland, told through the stories of people who lost loved ones during the conflict, which lasted more than 30 years. Contributors include Virtue Dixon, whose daughter Ruth was killed on her 24th birthday while celebrating at the Droppin' Well pub in Ballykelly in December 1982. An Irish National Liberation Army bomb brought the roof down, killing both civilians and British soldiers, and Virtue tells the story of the aftermath from her perspective.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Raymond Blanc: How to Cook Well. (R) **12.00** Football Focus. **1.00** BBC News: Weather. **1.15** Rugby League – Super League Playoffs Highlights. **2.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **3.00** Escape to the Country. (R) **4.00** Final Score. **5.20** BBC News. **5.30** Regional Programme. **5.40** Pointless Celebrities. **6.30** **Strictly Come Dancing.** Tess Daly and Claudia Winkleman present as the pro-celebrity dance competition continues. Last week, the couples were given their first taste of the pressures of avoiding elimination, and the tension does not let up as the second round of the competition proper gets under way with Movie Week. As in previous competitions, the 14 duos are challenged to come up with routines that pay homage to Hollywood's greatest films, and as always, Shirley Ballas, Craig Revel Horwood, Bruno Tonioli and Darcy Bussell are on hand to deliver their verdict on the stars' performances. Viewers at home then get a chance to have their say over which performers to back ahead of the results show tomorrow night. **8.35** **Casualty.** Jacob is shocked to find Omo, his schizophrenic mother, has arrived in the ED along with his son Blake. Elle goes to deal with Omo, who refuses to believe there is anything wrong and resists treatment, thinking that Elle is keeping her there on Jacob's orders. Elsewhere, Gem asks Ruby if she can swap bedrooms and is delighted when she agrees. **9.25** **Killing Eve.** Eve undertakes her first surveillance operation, and Villanelle is sent to England to eliminate a member of British Intelligence – without knowing who the target is. **10.10** **BBC News:** Weather; National Lottery Update. **10.30** **Match of the Day.** Gary Lineker presents the latest Premier League highlights, including Tottenham Hotspur v Cardiff City at Wembley Stadium. **11.55** **The NFL Show.** Mark Chapman is joined by Osi Umenyiora and Jason Bell to present highlights of Thursday night's game – New England Patriots v Indianapolis Colts at Gillette Stadium. **12.25** Weather for the Week Ahead. **12.30** BBC News.

BBC2

6.30 Top Class. (R) **7.00** Marrying Mum and Dad. (R) **7.30** All Over the Place: Europe. (R) **8.00** The Dengineers. (R) **8.30** Absolute Genius with Dick & Dom. (R) **9.00** Planet Dinosaur. (R) **9.30** Elephant Diaries. (R) **10.00** The Animal's Guide to Britain. (R) **11.00** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **12.00** The Incredible Spice Men. (R) **12.30** Great British Menu. (R) **1.00** Great British Menu. (R) **1.30** Hairys Bikers' Best of British. (R) **2.15** Giraffes: Africa's Gentle Giants. (R) **3.15** Saving Lives at Sea. (R) **4.15** Trust Me, I'm a Doctor. (R) **4.45** Monkman & Seagull's Genius Guide to Britain. (R) **5.15** Flog It! (R) **5.50** Dad's Army. (R) **6.20** **Film: Mr Holmes.** (2015) An elderly Sherlock Holmes retires to a seaside farmhouse in the aftermath of the Second World War, and struggles to cope with his diminished faculties. Assisted by his housekeeper's inquisitive son, he tries to piece together the events of the one case that he failed to solve. Period mystery based on Mitch Cullin's novel A Slight Trick of the Mind, starring Ian McKellen. **8.00** **A House Through Time.** Documentary charting 180 years of British history as lived through by the successive inhabitants of a terraced house in Liverpool, from the 1840s to the present day. (R) **9.00** **Live at the Apollo.** Sitcom star and The Last Leg regular Josh Widdicombe welcomes Londoner Nathan Caton and Australian comic Celia Pacquola to the stage at London's Hammersmith Apollo. (R) **9.30** **Troubles: The Life After.** An intimate account of the Troubles in Northern Ireland, told through the stories of people who lost loved ones during the conflict, which lasted more than 30 years. **10.50** **Snowfall.** New series. Hard-hitting drama about the beginnings of the crack epidemic in 1980s Los Angeles. Damson Idris, Carter Hudson and Emily Rios star. **11.35** **Later Weekend with Jools Holland.** Muse perform songs from their upcoming release Simulation Theory and Southampton-born Laurel makes her first appearance on the show, with music from her full-length debut Dogwole. **12.40** **Film: Department Q: The Absent One.** (2014) **2.35** Trust. (R) **3.30** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Dino Dana. **6.10** Super 4. (R) **6.25** Super 4. (R) **6.35** Make It Pop. (R) **6.55** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.05** Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) **7.15** Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) **7.30** Scrambled!: Scrambled! **7.35** Scrambled!: The Tom and Jerry Show. (R) **7.50** Scrambled!: The Powerpuff Girls. (R) **8.10** Scrambled!: ToonMarty. (R) **8.30** Scrambled!: The Haunted Hathaways. (R) **9.05** Scrambled!: Mighty Magiswords! (R) **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** James Martin's Saturday Morning. **11.40** The Island Strait. (R) **12.15** The X Factor. (R) **1.15** ITV News: Weather. **1.30** **Film: Johnny English Reborn.** (2011) Spy comedy sequel, starring Rowan Atkinson. **3.30** Tipping Point: Lucky Stars. (R) **4.30** The Chase. (R) **5.30** ITV News: Weather. **5.50** Regional Programme: Weather. **6.00** **Film: Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix.** (2007) The young wizard struggles to convince his fellow scorers that the evil Lord Voldemort has returned to life. When Hogwarts headmaster Dumbledore is ousted in favour of a sadistic replacement, Harry realises he must take matters into his own hands, uniting his fellow pupils to form a secret army and training them for the inevitable confrontation to come. Fantasy adventure sequel, starring Daniel Radcliffe, Emma Watson, Rupert Grint and Gary Oldman. **8.35** **The X Factor.** Dermot O'Leary hosts the third and final Six Chair Challenge episode, in which the acts perform individually before the judges choose who will be selected for the next stage. However, even if a contender is selected to go through to the next stage, the judges are free to change their minds and ditch them if a more promising alternative comes along later in the show. However, this year each judge has a golden button, which guarantees one act in their line-up a place in the final six, meaning that once they have a seat, they cannot be swapped out. **9.50** **The Jonathan Ross Show.** The host is joined by guests Gordon Ramsay, Fred Sirieix, Gino D'Acampo, Bear Grylls and Romesh Ranganathan. **10.55** **ITV News:** Weather. **11.15** **Film: Twins.** (1988) **1.05** Jackpot247. **3.00** Long Lost Family. (R) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.00 Formula 1 Japanese Grand Prix Qualifying Live. **8.35** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **9.05** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **9.30** Frasier. (R) **10.00** Frasier. (R) **10.30** Formula 1 Japanese Grand Prix Qualifying Replay. **12.30** Car SOS. (R) **1.30** Four in a Bed. (R) **1.55** Four in a Bed. (R) **2.30** Four in a Bed. (R) **3.00** Four in a Bed. (R) **3.30** Four in a Bed. (R) **4.00** A Place in the Sun. (R) **4.35** The People's Vet. **5.35** Escape to the Chateau. DIV. (R) **6.30** **Channel 4 News.** **7.00** **Britain at Low Tide.** Tori Herridge uncovers the story behind a dramatic night in 1976 when fishing trawler the Admiral Von Tromp went wildly off course in the North Sea, after setting off in Scarborough and running aground in Whitby, North Yorkshire, with the wreckage still visible on the shores of Saltwick Bay to this day. The massive remains of a First World War fort lead Tori to tales of love in the East Yorkshire hamlet of Kilsnase, and she learns the strange fate of two ships that were built in Hull but ended up on top of a mountain in Peru. (R) **8.00** **Britain's Most Historic Towns.** Alice Roberts tells the story of Viking England by studying the history of York. She takes part in a Viking battle, meets the metal detectorists behind one of the UK's greatest archaeological finds and gets her hands on an almost 1,000-year-old poo. Aerial archaeologist Ben Robinson takes to the skies to see how the layout of York reflects its history. (R) **9.00** **Film: Deadpool.** (2016) Premiere. A fast-talking former mercenary develops terminal cancer, and agrees to be the subject in a shady experiment in the hope of a cure. The procedure leaves him horribly disfigured, but also possessing superhuman abilities which he immediately puts to use in a quest for revenge on the man responsible for his hideous appearance. Superhero comedy adventure, starring Ryan Reynolds. **11.10** **Film: Conan the Barbarian.** (2011) A warrior seeks revenge on the warlord who killed his father, and tries to stop him magically making himself all-powerful. Fantasy adventure, with Jason Momoa and Stephen Lang. **1.05** Experimental. (R) **2.00** Hollyoaks. (R) **4.05** Vet on the Hill.

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **9.50** Rise of the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. **10.05** Rise of the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.20** The Gadget Show. (R) **11.15** Criminals: Caught on Camera. (R) **11.45** Police Interceptors. (R) **12.40** Police Interceptors. (R) **1.40** Police Interceptors. (R) **2.45** Live Gallagher Premiership Rugby Union. **5.15** World's Scariest Plane Landings. (R) **6.00** **Bad Tenants, Rogue Landlords.** Brent Council officers find a severely overcrowded house in north London, while Harrow Council try to help a family forced to sleep in one room due to leaks coming from the roof. (R) **6.45** **Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away!** Stewart and Iain confront a woman in Cheshire refusing to pay a veterinary practice, claiming her dog was misdiagnosed. Paul and Max chase £5,000 owed by a banned company director. (R) **7.35** **Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away!** Gary and Paul try to recover a debt owed by a Kent publican – only to find themselves in the middle of a family at war – and Stewart and Elmor repossess a property in Liverpool. (R) **8.30** **5 News Weekend.** **8.35** **Doomsday of Pompeii: Rome Unwrapped.** Documentary about the eruption of Mount Vesuvius in 79 AD, which spilled seven million tonnes of debris onto the city of Pompeii and sealed the fate of more than 1,000 people. **9.35** **Eight Days That Made Rome: The Spartacus Revolt.** Bettany Hughes recalls the moment that Spartacus, a Thracian gladiator fighting for the entertainment of the Romans, broke out of gladiator school and started a slave revolt. (R) **10.35** **The Murder of Julius Caesar.** Novelist Robert Harris and historian Neil Faulkner are among the experts examining the events surrounding the assassination of the Roman dictator. (R) **11.35** **Helicopter Pursuits: Caught on Camera.** A compilation of police helicopter chases taken from the first three series of the documentary. (R) **12.05** FIA World Rally Championship Highlights. **12.35** SuperCasino. **3.10** Law & Order: Special Victims Unit. (R) **4.45** Wildlife SOS. (R) **5.10** House Doctor. (R) **5.35** Divine Designs. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four
7.00 Monkey Planet **8.00** Big Cats **9.00** Mystery Road **10.45** Inside No 9 **11.45** I'm Not In Love: The Story of 10cc **12.45** Top of the Pops: 1986 **1.45** Monkey Planet **2.45** Big Cats **3.45** Close **ITV2**
11.15 The X Factor **12.15** You've Been Framed! **Gold** **1.20** Film: You've Got Mail (1998) **2.25** FYI Daily **2.30** Film: You've Got Mail (1998) **3.40** Film: Yes Man (2008) **4.40** FYI Daily **4.45** Film: Yes Man (2008) **5.45** Film: Twister (1996) **6.45** FYI Daily **6.50** Film: Twister (1996) **8.45** Film: The Fast and the Furious: Tokyo Drift (2006) **9.00** FYI Daily **9.05** Film: The Fast and the Furious: Tokyo Drift (2006) **10.10** Celebrity Juice **10.55** Family Guy **12.50** American Dad! **1.50** The Cleveland Show **2.20** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **3.00** Teleshopping **ITV3**
3.10 Film: Carry On Up the Jungle (1970) **5.00** Lewis **7.00** Midsomer Murders **9.00** Endeavour **11.00** A Touch of Frost **1.10** On the Buses **2.05** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping **ITV4**
12.00 Pawn Stars **1.30** ITV Racing: Live from Ascot. Coverage from Ascot. Newmarket and Redcar. **4.00** World Cup Rivalries: Brazil v Italy **4.00** Pawn Stars **6.10** Mr Bean **7.20** Film: Police Academy 3: Back in Training (1986) **8.20** FYI Daily **8.25** Film: Police Academy 3: Back in Training (1986) **9.00** Film: Green Zone (2010) **10.00** Film: Green Zone (2010) **11.15** Film: Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy (2011) **12.15** FYI Daily **12.20** Film: Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy (2011) **1.50** The Americans **2.40** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping **E4**
11.05 Brooklyn Nine-Nine **12.05** The Big Bang Theory **1.00** The Great British Bake Off **2.20** The Great British Bake Off: An Extra Slice **3.30** Film: Ice Age: The Meltdown (2006) **5.15** Rudie(ish) Tube Shorts **5.30** The Big Bang Theory **9.00** Film: A Good Day to Die Hard (2013) **11.00** Gogglebox **1.10** The Inbetweeners **2.20** Celebs Go Dating **3.10** Gogglebox **4.05** How I Met Your Mother **Film4**
11.00 The Boxrolls (2014) **12.55** Spy Kids 4: All the Time in the World (2011) **2.45** Hotel for Dogs (2009) **4.50** First Daughter (2004) **7.00** Taxi (2004) **9.00** The Wolf of Wall Street (2013) Martin Scorsese's fact-based drama, starring Leonardo DiCaprio. **12.40** Troll Hunter (2010) **2.55** Close

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CHOICE



Jodie Whittaker

Doctor Who (BBC1, 6.45pm) Jodie Whittaker makes her debut as the 13th Doctor, who crash lands following an explosive regeneration that has apparently destroyed the Tardis. She finds herself lost and alone in Sheffield, with no memory of who she used to be - and has an encounter with three seemingly ordinary people whose lives are about to change for ever. Bradley Walsh, Tosin Cole and Mandip Gill co-star as the Doctor's new companions.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **8.35** Match of the Day. (R) **10.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **11.00** Regional Programme. **11.30** Sunday Morning Live. **12.30** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** BBC News: Weather. **1.15** Money for Nothing. (R) **2.00** Escape to the Country. (R) **2.45** Points of View. **3.00** Songs of Praise. **3.35** Eat Well for Less? (R) **4.35** Pointless Celebrities. **5.20** BBC News. **5.35** Regional Programme. **5.45** Countryfile. **6.45** **Doctor Who.** New series. Jodie Whittaker makes her debut as the 13th Doctor, who is left with no memory following an explosive regeneration that has apparently destroyed the Tardis. **7.45** **Strictly Come Dancing: The Results.** Claudia Winkleman and Tess Daly reveal the next couple to leave the contest. Plus, a performance by Gladys Knight, singing her 1989 James Bond theme song *License to Kill*. **8.30** **Still Open All Hours.** David Jason stars as Granville in this follow-up to *Open All Hours*, now running the shop with his son Leroy after inheriting the business. **9.00** **The Cry.** Joanna finds herself at the centre of a media circus as the world's press descends on Wilde Bay to report on the disappearance. She becomes obsessed with people forming theories about her child's fate on the internet, adopting a fake identity to join in the discussion. As the police investigation continues, she and Alistair are forced to adopt different strategies for coping with the constant intrusion, a pressure which threatens to break their relationship. **10.00** BBC News. **10.20** Regional Programme. **10.30** **Match of the Day 2.** Mark Chapman reviews the day's Premier League action, introducing highlights of Liverpool v Manchester City, Fulham v Arsenal and Southampton v Chelsea. **11.40** **The Apprentice.** The business-based reality show returns, with 16 candidates hoping to scoop a £250,000 investment from Alan Sugar, who sends the hopefuls to Malta for their first task. (R) **12.40** *The Apprentice: You're Fired.* (R) **1.10** *Weather for the Week Ahead.* **1.15** BBC News.

BBC2

6.15 Coast. (R) **6.35** *Around the World in 80 Gardens.* (R) **7.35** *Gardeners' World.* (R) **8.35** *Countryfile.* (R) **9.30** *The Beecroft Garden.* (R) **10.00** *Saturday Kitchen Best Bites.* **11.30** *Great British Menu.* (R) **12.00** *Great British Menu.* (R) **12.30** *Great British Menu.* (R) **1.00** *Hairy Bikers' Best of British.* (R) **2.00** *Alec Guinness: Talking Pictures.* (R) **2.45** *Film: The Man in the White Suit.* (1951) **4.05** *Animal Park.* (R) **4.15** *Super Giant Animals.* (R) **5.15** *King Arthur's Britain: The Truth Unearthed.* (R) **6.15** **Grammar Schools: Who Will Get In?** Students face their mock GCSEs, while the head teachers of Erith and Townley announce a plan to bring both schools into the same trust. Last in the series. (R) **7.15** **Philippines: Island Treasures.** Mike Dilger and Rico Hizon go in search of rich culture and rare wildlife in one of the greatest biodiversity hotspots in the world - the Philippines. **8.00** **The Mediterranean with Simon Reeve.** New series. A journey around the region, examining the challenges currently facing the nations in the area. In the first episode, Simon visits Malta, southern Italy and Albania. **9.00** **Last Chance Lawyer New York City.** New series. Documentary following the exploits of criminal lawyer Howard Greenberg, who wages "war" against the US government from his office in Brooklyn. **9.45** **Mock the Week.** Topical comedy quiz show. (R) **10.15** **No Activity.** Stokes and Hendy are joined in the car by Carol's son Lachy. Meanwhile, Carol complains to a shocked April that she's been put on a shift with Lee. **10.40** **No Activity.** Carol is excited about her new colleague, while Stokes is trying out a new nap regime. Bernie is stunned to learn that Elizabeth has always wanted to be a stand-up comedian. **11.10** **Billion Dollar Deals and How They Changed Your World.** Jacques Peretti explores the deals that shaped the way people understand money, from the invention of PayPal to contactless transactions. (R) **12.10** *Rugby League: Million Pound Game Highlights.* **1.10** *Sign Zone: Question Time.* (R) **2.10** *Holby City.* (R) **3.05** *This Is BBC Two.*

ITV

6.00 CITV: *Dino Dana.* **6.10** *Super 4.* (R) **6.25** *Super 4.* (R) **6.35** *Make It Pop.* (R) **6.55** *Signed Stories: Share a Story.* (R) **7.05** *Mr Bean: The Animated Series.* (R) **7.15** *Mr Bean: The Animated Series.* (R) **7.30** *Scrambled!: Scrambled!* **7.35** *Scrambled!: The Tom and Jerry Show.* (R) **7.50** *Scrambled!: Ben 10.* (R) **8.10** *Scrambled!: The Bagel and Becky Show.* (R) **8.30** *Scrambled!: The Haunted Hathaways.* (R) **9.05** *Scrambled!: Mighty Magiswords!* (R) **9.25** *ITV News.* **9.30** *Emmerdale 1918.* (R) **10.00** *This Morning - 30 Unforgettable Years.* (R) **11.30** *The X Factor.* (R) **12.45** *ITV News: Weather.* **1.00** *ITV Racing Live: Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe.* Coverage of the prestigious meeting from Longchamp. **3.30** *Back to Mine.* **4.00** *The Big Audition.* (R) **5.00** *You've Been Framed! Gold.* (R) **5.30** *Queen of the World.* (R) **6.30** *ITV News: Weather.* **6.45** **Regional Programme:** *Weather.* **7.00** **5 Gold Rings.** Game show, hosted by Phillip Schofield, in which contestants compete to answer visual questions by placing rings on an LED floor. **8.00** **The X Factor.** The live shows draw closer for the remaining 24 acts as they jet off to the Judges' Houses stage, in a bid to land a coveted place in the live shows. **9.00** **Vanity Fair.** Becky is left alone in the world and living in greatly reduced circumstances when Steyne arranges for Rawdon to be shipped overseas. Dobbin discovers that Amelia plans to remarry, a revelation that inspires him to finally confess his feelings for her - but he is not prepared for her reaction. The Sedley family takes a holiday in Germany, where they are unexpectedly reunited with Becky - who gets the chance to redeem a lifetime of selfishness by performing a single good deed on behalf of her dearest friend. Last in the series. **10.05** **The Imitation Game.** Alexander Armstrong hosts the panel show, with Rory Bremner, Debra Stephenson, Alistair McGowan and Ronni Ancona staging their own version of the Olympics. **10.45** *ITV News: Weather.* **11.05** **Joanne Lumley's Silk Road Adventure.** (R) **12.05** *Strangers.* (R) **12.55** *Jackpot247.* **3.00** *Motorsport UK.* (R) **3.50** *British Superbike Championship Highlights.* (R) **4.40** *ITV Nightscreen.*

CHANNEL 4

6.00 *Formula 1 Japanese Grand Prix Live.* **8.30** *Formula 1 Japanese Grand Prix Live Reaction.* **9.30** *Sunday Brunch.* **12.30** *Formula 1 Japanese Grand Prix Re-Run.* **3.15** *The Great British Bake Off.* (R) **4.35** *Location, Location, Location.* (R) **5.35** *Grand Designs.* (R) **6.35** **Channel 4 News.** **7.00** **Phil Spencer's Stately Homes.** The property expert returns to look round more of Britain's stately homes, beginning at Longleat House in Wiltshire, home to the Viscount of Weymouth. Phil learns how Longleat has always been one of Britain's most innovative stately homes, and hears tales of lovesick ghosts and how the building was originally planned as an attempt to wow Queen Elizabeth I. (R) **8.00** **Great Canal Journeys.** New series. Timothy West and Prunella Scales travel down the River Nile from Luxor to Aswan. Tim has some misgivings about attempting such a daring journey, but is won over by Pru's desire for fresh adventure. They discover how travel along the river was vital to the ancient Egyptian civilisation, and discover how the first ever canals were constructed nearby to ferry building materials for the temple at Karnak. Along the way, they visit a Nubian village, purchase aphrodisiacs in a souk, and dance by moonlight. **9.00** **Celebrity Island with Bear Grylls.** Only seven celebrities remain on the island, and they have not eaten in days. They begin to regret the decision to bury the pig they accidentally killed instead of making a meal of it. Martin suffers an infected wound on his leg and fears he will not make it to the end of the series, but becomes determined to help his fellow castaways by leading a raft expedition in search of food. **10.00** **The Circle.** Series assessing the impact of social media, in which individuals from all walks of life compete in a popularity contest. **11.00** **8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown.** Jimmy Carr hosts the comedy panel show, with Sean Lock and Greg Davies taking on Jon Richardson and Holly Walsh. (R) **12.00** *Film: A Walk in the Woods.* (2015) **1.55** *Motor Sport: Mini Challenge.* (R) **2.20** *Gillette World Sport.* **2.45** *Mobil 1: The Grid.* (R) **3.15** *Grand Designs New Zealand.* (R) **4.10** *Vet on the Hill.* (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 *Milkshake!* **6.05** *Peppa Pig.* (R) **6.10** *Peppa Pig.* (R) **6.15** *Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom.* (R) **6.30** *Leo Bao Bei.* (R) **6.40** *Digby Dragon.* (R) **6.50** *Freeman Sam.* (R) **7.00** *Thomas & Friends.* (R) **7.15** *Bob the Builder.* (R) **7.25** *Rusty Rivets.* (R) **7.40** *Peppa Pig.* (R) **7.45** *Peppa Pig.* (R) **7.55** *Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom.* (R) **8.10** *Paw Patrol.* (R) **8.25** *Nella the Princess Knight.* **8.45** *Shimmer and Shine.* (R) **9.00** *Pirata & Capitano.* (R) **9.15** *Noddy: Toyland Detective.* (R) **9.30** *Flaogals.* (R) **9.50** *Rise of the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles.* **10.05** *Rise of the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles.* (R) **10.20** *The Wonderful World of Puppies.* (R) **11.05** *Police Interceptors.* (R) **12.00** *Live FIA World Rally Championship.* **1.30** *Criminals: Caught on Camera.* (R) **2.00** *Friends.* (R) **2.30** *Friends.* (R) **3.00** *Friends.* (R) **3.30** *Friends.* (R) **4.00** *Friends.* (R) **4.30** *Friends.* (R) **5.00** *Friends.* (R) **5.30** *Friends.* (R) **6.00** **Friends.** Ross lets Rachel in on his most secret sexual fantasy, and Chandler gets involved with an old flame. (R) **6.30** **Friends.** Ross prepares to make an important speech at the museum, and invites the gang along for moral support - but soon regrets his decision. (R) **7.00** **Inside the Chocolate Factory.** The story of a business that started out making cocoa and drinking chocolate almost 200 years ago, eventually evolving into one of the most famous chocolate brands in the world. (R) **7.55** **5 News Weekend.** **8.00** **Rolls-Royce: Dream Machines.** The inside story of the engineering company, looking at how Charles Rolls and Henry Royce created the ultimate in luxury car brands. (R) **9.00** **WW2 Wrecks: Draining the Ocean.** Documentary exploring the undersea wreckage of Second World War vessels, using 3D reconstructions to reveal how they sank. **10.00** **Big Brother.** Daily round-up of highlights. **11.30** *Film: Mr & Mrs Smith.* (2005) Comedy adventure, with Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie. **12.30** *Access.* **12.35** *Film: Mr & Mrs Smith.* (2005) Concluded. **1.35** *SuperCasino.* **3.10** *Law & Order: Special Victims Unit.* (R) **4.45** *Wildlife SOS.* (R) **5.10** *House Doctor.* (R) **5.35** *Divine Designs.* (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four **7.00** *Engineering Giants: Gas Rig Strip-Down* **8.00** *James May's Cars of the People* **9.00** *Cold War: Hot Jets* **10.00** *Feud: Bette and Joan* **11.40** *Wonders of the Great Barrier Reef* with Iolo Williams **12.35** *Treasures of Ancient Greece* **1.35** *Andre Previn at the BBC* **2.35** *James May's Cars of the People* **3.35** *Close* **ITV2** **12.15** *You've Been Framed!* **Gold** **1.15** *The X Factor* **2.30** *Film: Happy Feet* (2006) **3.30** *FYI Daily* **3.35** *Film: Happy Feet* (2006) **4.40** *Film: Despicable Me 2* (2013) **5.40** *FYI Daily* **5.45** *Film: Despicable Me 2* (2013) **6.35** *Film: The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring* (2001) **7.45** *FYI Daily* **7.50** *Film: The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring* (2001) **10.00** *Family Guy* **11.30** *American Dad!* **12.25** *Film: Piranha* (2010) **1.30** *FYI Daily* **1.35** *Film: Piranha* (2010) **2.15** *Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records* **2.25** *Teleshopping* **5.55** *ITV2* *Nightscreen* **ITV3** **12.55** *Agatha Christie's Poirot* **2.55** *Film: Columbo: Danger of the Mind* (1972) **4.55** *Foyle's War* **9.00** *Lewis* **11.00** *Wire in the Blood* **1.10** *A Touch of Frost* **3.00** *Road to Avonlea* **4.45** *Murder, She Wrote* **5.35** *ITV3* *Nightscreen* **ITV4** **12.55** *Pawn Stars* **2.20** *Film: Bend of the River* (1952) **3.20** *FYI Daily* **3.25** *Film: Bend of the River* (1952) **4.15** *Film: Lawman* (1971) **5.15** *FYI Daily* **5.20** *Film: Lawman* (1971) **6.10** *Made in Britain* **7.15** *Film: Police Academy 4: Citizens on Patrol* (1987) **8.15** *FYI Daily* **8.20** *Film: Police Academy 4: Citizens on Patrol* (1987) **9.00** *Film: Passenger 57* (1992) **10.05** *FYI Daily* **10.10** *Film: Passenger 57* (1992) **10.50** *Film: Death Wish 2* (1981) **11.50** *FYI Daily* **11.55** *Film: Death Wish 2* (1981) **12.40** *The Avengers* **1.45** *Minder* **2.45** *ITV4* *Nightscreen* **3.00** *Teleshopping* **E4** **12.55** *The Goldbergs* **2.55** *The Big Bang Theory* **6.50** *Film: The Three Musketeers* (2011) **9.00** *Krypton* **11.00** *The Intebweeners* **12.10** *The Big Bang Theory* **1.10** *Krypton* **3.00** *Rude Tube* **3.25** *Hollyoaks* **Film4** **11.00** *The Cockleshell Heroes* (1955) **1.05** *Flight of the Navigator* (1986) **2.50** *Epic* (2013) **4.55** *Carry On Jack* (1963) **6.55** *Edward Scissorhands* (1990) **9.00** *Taken 3* (2014) **11.15** *True Grit* (2010) **1.25** *Love, Rosie* (2014) **3.35** *Close*

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PROPERTY

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Modern four-bed detached close to high street

Belvoir are pleased to announce to market this modern four-bedroomed detached family home in Stafford Road, Bloxwich, located closely to Bloxwich high street.

It is for sale through Belvoir's Cannock branch at £310,000.

The property benefits from off road parking to rear.

Its accommodation briefly comprises an entrance hall with stairs off, a downstairs WC, a kitchen, a large lounge, a dining room, stairs leading to the first floor, four bedrooms (one en-suite) and a bathroom.

To the front of the property is a lawned garden and to the rear, parking with a garage access and lawned area.

The kitchen has wall and base units with work surfaces, a hob and an electric oven with an extractor fan and a double glazed bow window to the front.

The first floor landing has an airing cupboard with storage and a loft access hatch.

Having a double glazed window to the rear, the master bedroom has mirror fitted wardrobes and a door to the en-suite shower room, with a vanity unit with a wash hand basin, a fully tiled shower cubicle with a mains shower and laminate wood-effect flooring,

With a double glazed window to the front, bedroom two has fitted wardrobes. Bedroom three has a double glazed window to the rear and fitted wardrobes. Bedroom four has a double glazed window to the front.

The bathroom has a vanity sink unit, bidet, low level WC, a P-shaped panel bath, ceramic tiled flooring and a chrome heated towel rail.

The private rear garden has a block paved driveway accessed through a double timber gate via Frances Drive, a patio area with a brick built barbecue and a lawned garden.

BLOXWICH £310,000

TO VIEW THIS PROPERTY

AGENT: Belvoir Estate Agents

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Modern detached

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Close to the high street

4 bedrooms

Bathroom/en-suites/guest WC



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The Chronicle
Thursday, October 4, 2018



Werneth Grove, Turnberry Estate

- Extended Detached Family Home
- Four Bedrooms
- Main Lounge
- Sitting Room and Dining Area
- Conservatory
- EPC - C (73)

£320,000




Stafford Road, Bloxwich

- Refurbished Detached House
- Four Bedrooms
- Refitted Bathroom
- Good Sized Lounge
- Dining Room
- EPC - E (53)



£315,000



Stafford Road, Bloxwich

- Four Bedroom Detached Home
- En-Suite to the Master Bedroom
- Close to Shops and the Walsall Academy
- Double Garage & Parking
- Access via Frances Drive
- EPC - D (58)

£310,000

NEW



REDUCED



Astbury Close, Turnberry Estate

- Modern Family Home
- Three Bedrooms
- Conservatory
- Block Paved Driveway
- Entrance Hallway & Guest WC
- EPC - D (65)

£205,000

NEW



Allens Lane, Pelsall

- Extended Traditional Semi-Detached
- Three Bedrooms
- Rear Access Road
- Regular Public Transport
- Off Road Parking
- EPC - D (62)



O.I.E.O £170,000



Griffins Crescent, Rushall

- Built by Taylor Wimpey in 2012
- Corner Plot
- Saddlers Brook Development
- Ground Floor WC
- Living Kitchen with Dual Fuel Log Burner
- Four Bedrooms
- En-Suite to Master
- Garage Converted Internally
- DG & GCH
- EPC - C (79)



£230,000



Harvest Grove, Bloxwich

- Cul-de-Sac Location
- Three Bedrooms
- 0.5 Miles from Walsall Academy
- Built in 2014 by Kendrick Homes
- Remaining NHBC Guarantee
- EPC - B (83)

O.I.E.O £170,000




Swynnerton Drive, Essington

- Beautifully Presented Semi-Detached House
- Extended Lounge/Diner
- Fitted Kitchen
- Utility Room
- Dressing Room/Walk-in Wardrobe
- Refitted Bathroom
- Plans Drawn up for Rear Extension
- Close to St Johns Primary School
- EPC - C (74)



£200,000



Links Court, Turnberry Estate

- Exclusive Over 60's Development
- One Bedroomed Apartment
- Parking Space Included
- Luxury Fixtures and Fittings
- Ground Floor
- EPC - B (82)

£169,950



Beeches Road, Leamore

- Extended Semi-Detached House
- Four Bedrooms
- Ground Floor Bedroom
- Well Presented Throughout
- Modern Kitchen & Bathroom
- EPC - D (59)




£140,000



Tame Street, West Bromwich

- 'The Canford' by Taylor Wimpey
- Ground Floor WC
- Two Allocated Parking Spaces
- Private Rear Garden
- Two Double Bedrooms
- EPC - C (75)

£140,000



Elmsdale Court, Walsall Town

- Ground Floor Flat
- Two Bedrooms
- Brand New Fitted Kitchen
- Integrated Appliances
- Luxuriously Fitted Bathroom
- EPC - D (62)

£100,000




Netley Road, Mossley

- Well Maintained Semi-Detached House
- Two Reception Rooms
- Kitchen
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Double Glazing
- EPC - D (55)



O.I.E.O £100,000



Smiths Flour Mill, Walsall

- Gated Smiths Flour Mill Development
- Secure Gated Entrance
- Allocated Parking Space
- Close to Walsall Town Centre
- Two Bedroom Upper Floor Apartment
- EPC - D (65)

£110,000



Smiths Flour Mill, Walsall Town

- Modern 1st Floor Apartment
- Open Plan Lounge/Kitchen
- Master Bedroom with Ensuite
- Secure Allocated Parking
- Ideal Buy-to-Let (£575pcm Currently Let)
- EPC - D (63)



£95,000



Walker Road, Blakenall

- Two Bedroom 2nd Floor Apartment
- Large Open Plan Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen
- En-Suite Shower Room
- Family Bathroom
- EPC - C (80)

£85,000



Springhill Court, Sutton Road

- Two Bedroom Town Centre Flat
- Second Floor
- Communal Parking
- Very Good Condition Throughout
- Double Glazing & Electric Heating
- EPC - F (31)

O.I.E.O £80,000



Walker Road, Blakenall

- Two Bedroom Ground Floor Apartment
- Open Plan Lounge/Kitchen
- Bathroom with Shower
- Double Glazing & Gas Central Heating
- Allocated Parking
- EPC - B (83)

£75,000



Foster Street, Blakenall

- Sold By Modern Method of Auction
- Two Bedroom Detached Victorian House
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- Ground Floor Bathroom
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- EPC - E (53)



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Broadmeadow Lane, Great Wyrley,

- Modern detached
- Large conservatory
- Three good sized bedrooms
- Corner plot
- Well presented throughout
- A must see

£199,995



Wood Green Road, Wednesbury,

- Huge property
- Large bedrooms
- Opposite park
- High ceilings
- Downstairs WC
- A must see for any family

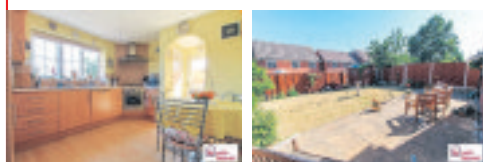
£260,000



Birchfields, Willenhall,

- Three bedrooms
- Large garden
- Garage
- In need of some modernisation
- No upward chain
- A must see for any family

£199,995



Planetree Road, Walsall,

- Four bedrooms
- South facing garden
- Master with en suite
- Large lounge
- Separate dining room
- Kitchen with utility room
- Downstairs WC
- Generous living space
- Quiet road
- A must see for any family

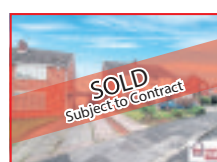
£290,000



Valleyside, Pelsall,

- Detached home
- Garage
- Four bedrooms
- Huge kitchen
- Ample living space
- Off road parking

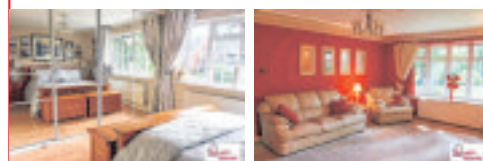
£299,995



Woodside Way, Willenhall,

- Modern semi-detached home
- Re-styled kitchen
- Re-styled bathroom
- Two reception rooms
- Cul de sac
- Enclosed rear garden

£160,000



Stafford Road, Walsall,

- Four bedroom detached
- Large lounge
- Fitted kitchen
- Downstairs WC
- Double garage
- Master bedroom with en suite
- Office
- Family bathroom
- Front and rear garden
- Off road parking

£310,000

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Aster Way, Walsall,

- Detached
- Garage
- Three bedrooms
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- Ideal family home
- Popular residential location

£199,995



Manorhouse Close, Walsall,

- Two bedrooms
- No upward chain
- Modern apartment block
- Attention investors and first time buyers
- Master with en suite

£110,000



Dorsett Road, Wednesbury,

- Three huge bedrooms
- Massive enclosed rear garden
- Large layout
- Very good condition
- Ideal family home
- Quiet road

£150,000



Hawbush Road, Walsall,

- An ideal investment
- Three bedrooms
- Popular location
- In need of modernisation
- Close to local amenities
- A must see

£80,000



Willenhall Street, Wednesbury,

- Ideal investment opportunity
- Two bedrooms
- Perfect first time buy
- Close to local amenities
- Ample living space
- Enclosed rear garden

£125,000



Elwell Street, Wednesbury,

- 'Detached' flat
- Large rooms
- Unique layout
- Close to local amenities
- No upward chain
- Close to local transport links

£120,000



Holden Crescent, Walsall,

- No upward chain
- Rental yield in excess of 7.8%
- Quiet location
- Ground floor
- Communal rear garden
- One bedroom

£70,000



Gomer Street, Willenhall,

- Two bedrooms
- Fantastic rental yield
- Perfect investment
- Lengthy lease
- No upward chain
- A must see

£60,000



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BELVOIR!

Walsall 01922 895798
walsall@belvoir.co.uk

27

The Chronicle Thursday, October 4, 2018



Michael - Lettings Manager



Be with
BELVOIR!
Let



Foster Street, Walsall,
• Close to local transport links
• Low running costs
• Ready now!
• Two good sized bedrooms
• Guarantors may be required
• Fitted kitchen and bathroom

£550 pcm



Squires Grove, Willenhall,
• Two large bedroom
• Coming soon
• Huge lounge/diner
• En suite bathroom
• Fully fitted kitchen area
• Modern block

£550 pcm



Fountains Road, Walsall,
• Two bedrooms
• Two reception rooms
• Fitted kitchen
• Off road parking
• Family bathroom
• Popular location

£495 pcm



Usk Close, Bloxwich
• One Bedroom Ground Floor Flat
• Self Contained
• Lounge
• Fitted Kitchen
• Bathroom with Shower
• EPC 62

£425 pcm



Old Park Road, Wednesbury,
• Available now!
• Ample off road parking
• Short term let only
• Large rear garden
• Fitted kitchen
• Garage

£725 pcm



Cross Street, Willenhall,
• Ready now!
• Discounted fees
• Fitted kitchen
• Fitted bathroom
• Deposit on application
• One bedroom

£325 pcm



Springhead, Wednesbury,
• One bedroom
• Ideal central Wednesbury location
• Over two floors
• Close to local transport links
• Amenities within walking distance
• A must see!

£340 pcm

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paying
Re-let fees?



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Reservoir Street, Walsall,
• Recently refurbished
• Rear garden
• Close to local amenities
• Great transport routes
• Off road parking
• Finished to a high standard

£600 pcm



Blakenall Lane, Walsall,
• Ready to move now!
• Rear garden
• Fitted kitchen and bathroom
• Large living area
• DHSS accepted
• A must see!

£525 pcm



Broadway North, Walsall,
• One bedroom
• Ready to move into now!
• Fitted kitchen
• Fitted bathroom
• Low running costs
• DHSS considered

£325 pcm



Memory Lane, Wednesbury,
• Three bedrooms
• Semi-detached
• Close to local amenities
• Off road parking
• Ideal transport access
• A must see!

£595 pcm



Hillary Street, Walsall,
• Three bedrooms
• Fitted kitchen
• Two reception rooms
• Downstairs fitted bathroom
• Upstairs fitted bathroom
• Close to local amenities

£595 pcm



Stafford Street, Willenhall,
• Two bedroom apartment
• Town centre location
• Low running costs
• Large living area
• Ready to move now!
• Fitted kitchen

£475 pcm

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Three-bed detached on a great corner plot

WILLENHALL
£210,000

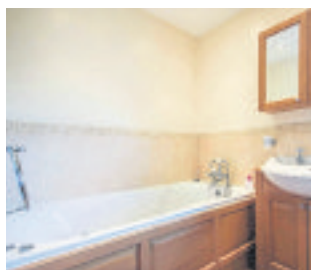
This three bedroomed detached property in Dovedale Avenue, Willenhall, lies on a great corner plot in an ever popular area.

It is for sale through L&S Prestige Estates at £210,000.

The living accommodation comprises of an entrance hallway, a front reception room, a rear reception room and a contemporary re-fitted kitchen which is open plan into the conservatory.

To the first floor there are three double bedrooms and a modern refitted family bathroom. The property also benefits from upvc double glazing, gas central heating, a garage, off road parking and gardens to the front, rear and side.

Contact L&S Prestige Estates on 01902 606595.



Well-presented detached is extensively refurbished

PELSALL
£325,000

<<<

This well-presented detached property in Hall Lane, Pelsall, Walsall, has been extensively refurbished by the current owner, including a re-fitted kitchen and bathroom.

Having generous living accommodation and a spacious rear garden, it is for sale through Goodchilds Estate Agents at £325,000 with no chain.

It lies in a much sought-after area in close proximity to local shops and several reputable schools.

It has a porch, an entrance hallway, a lounge, a dining room, a kitchen, a conservatory and a downstairs WC to the ground floor. To the first floor there are four generous sized bedrooms and a modern fitted bathroom.

Contact Goodchilds on 01543 226655.

SDL AUCTIONS

BIGWOOD

For sale by auction on Wednesday 24th October at Aston Villa Football Ground. Commencing at 10.30am

121 Willenhall Street, Wednesbury



A Vacant
Freehold
End Terraced
Property

Guide Price* : £29,000 - £34,000 (plus fees)

Over 110 Lots

For More Information
Visit Our Website

169 Bloxwich Lane, Walsall



A Vacant
Freehold
Mid Terraced
Property

Guide Price* : in excess of £35,000 (plus fees)

3 Ash Road, Wednesbury



A Vacant
Freehold
Semi
Detached
Property

Guide Price* : in excess £65,000 (plus fees)

Land Between 75 & 85 High Street, Brownhills



A Freehold
Development
Site with
Planning
Permission for
Three Retail
Units and Three
1 Bedroomed
Flats

Guide Price* : in excess of £136,500 (plus fees)

166 Glastonbury Crescent, Bloxwich, Walsall



A Vacant
Freehold
Mid Terraced
Property

Guide Price* : £19,000 - £24,000 (plus fees)

0121 233 5046

155 Great Charles Street, Birmingham, B3 3LP

www.sdlauctions.co.uk

* Each property is subject to a Reserve Price which would ordinarily be within + or - 10% of the quoted Guide Price. Therefore the property may not be able to be purchased at the quoted Guide Price. Both Guide and Reserve Prices can be subject to change up to and including the day of the auction. For a full explanation go to www.sdlauctions.co.uk/glossary. All Guide Prices are subject to additional non-optional fees, including the buyers administration fee.



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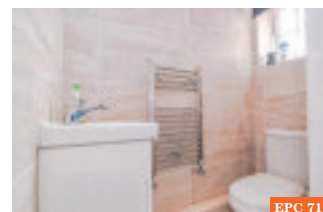
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NEW

Ganton Road, Bloxwich/Turnberry, Walsall
Bloxwich / Turnberry, Walsall



EPC 71

- Extended Family Home
- Hallway, Guest WC
- Lounge, Dining Room
- Breakfast Kitchen
- Snug, Utility Room
- Part converted Garage
- 4 Bedrooms, Bathroom
- En-Suite, Gardens

\$290,000

NEW

Squires Grove, New Invention, Willenhall
New Invention, Willenhall



EPC 0

- Modern Apartment
- Motivated Sale
- Lounge/Diner
- Kitchen
- Bathroom, En-Suite
- 2 Double Bedrooms
- Parking
- NO CHAIN

\$100,000 Offers Over

Chatsworth Crescent, Walsall
Walsall



EPC 0

- Stunning Family Home
- Recent Refurbished
- Lounge, Dining Room
- Refitted Kitchen
- 3 Bedrooms
- Refitted Bathroom
- Gardens, Private Driveway
- Viewing Recommended

\$174,950

NEW

Coalmeadow Close, Bloxwich, Walsall
Bloxwich, Walsall



EPC 0

- Modern Semi Detached
- Hall, Lounge
- Kitchen/Diner
- 2 Bedrooms, Bathroom
- Gardens
- Driveway
- No Chain
- Viewing Recommended

\$145,000

Catches Drive, Bloxwich, Walsall
Bloxwich, Walsall



EPC 79

- Modern Semi Detached
- Hall, Study, Lounge
- Open Plan Kitchen/Diner
- 3 Bedrooms
- En-Suite, Bathroom
- Driveway
- Garage
- No Chain

\$190,000 Offers Over

Beeches Road, Bloxwich, Walsall
Bloxwich, Walsall



EPC 0

- Motivated Seller
- Hall, Lounge
- Kitchen
- Shower Room
- 3/4 Bedrooms
- Garage
- Driveway, Gardens
- No Chain

\$139,995

Stafford Road, Bloxwich, Walsall
Bloxwich, Walsall



EPC 49

- Spacious Home
- Through Hallway, Lounge
- Dining Room
- Kitchen, Utility
- 2 Double Bedrooms
- Refitted Bathroom
- Gardens
- No Chain

\$139,950

NEW

Pargeter Street, Birchills, Walsall
Birchills, Walsall



EPC 0

- First Floor Apartment
- Walking Distance to Town
- Secure Intercom System
- Hallway, Lounge
- Kitchen
- Double Bedroom
- Bathroom
- Parking

\$70,000

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K. Stuart Swash

AUCTION - 25TH OCTOBER 2018



'CLEMENT VIEW', 32 ROCK STREET, UPPER GORNAL, DY3 2BL

Impressive Period Detached, spacious accommodation, 2 Reception, Cellar, 3 Bedrooms, Full Refurbishment Required Epc: TBA Coach House with 2 upper rooms, large Grounds - possible development potential (STPP)

Guide £170,000 / £180,000

**VIEWING: FRIDAY & SATURDAY,
5th & 6th OCTOBER @ 9.30 a.m.**



28 JEFFREY AVENUE, PARKFIELDS, WV4 6HU

Cul-de-sac location, large Semi., Hall 2 Reception, Conservatory, Kitchen, WC., Workshop, 3 Bedrooms, large Bathroom, off-road Parking, Rear Garden. Epc: D.64

Guide: £118,000 / £123,000

VIEWING: FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 5th & 6th OCTOBER @ 11.45 a.m.



22 MARLBROOK DRIVE, GOLDTHORN HILL, WV4 5AU

Large corner site, Modern Detached + Annexe. Porch, Hall, Cloakroom, 2 Reception, Kitchen, 3 Bedrooms, Bathroom, Annexe offering Lounge, Kitchen, Double Bedroom, spacious Lobby, Bathroom, Ddouble Garage, ample off-road Parking, large Rear Garden. Epc: D.58

Guide £220,000 / £230,000

VIEWING: FRIDAY & SATURDAY 5th & 6th OCTOBER @ 12.45 p.m.



16 PARK AVENUE, GOLDTHORN PARK, WV4 5AL

Established location, Detached Bungalow ripe for refurbishment. Large driveway, Porch, Hall, 2 Reception, Sun Lounge, Kitchen area, 2 Double Bedrooms, Garage, wide Rear Garden. Epc: G.11

Guide £175,000 / £185,000

VIEWING: FRIDAY 5th OCTOBER @ 1.30 p.m. & SATURDAY 6th OCTOBER @ 9.30 a.m.



27 MALCOLM COURT + GARAGE, off LOWER VAUXHALL, WV1 4SS

First Floor Flat - easy access to shops & City Centre. Hall, Store, Lounge, Kitchen, Double Bedroom, Shower Room. Garage No. 7. Epc: D.68

Guide: £19,000 / £24,000

**VIEWING: FRIDAY 5th OCTOBER @ 11.00 a.m.
& SATURDAY 6th OCTOBER @ 10.45 a.m.**



26 SHOWELL ROAD, BUSHBURY, WV10 9LT

End Terrace in convenient location - ready for refurbishment. Majority Double Glazing, CH system, 2 Reception, Kitchen, Lobby, Bathroom, 2 Double Bedrooms, (90ft. approx.) Rear Garden Epc: E.49

Guide: £29,000 / £34,000

**VIEWING: FRIDAY 5th OCTOBER @ 10.00 a.m.
& SATURDAY 6th OCTOBER @ 11.30 a.m.**



38 SABRINA ROAD, WIGHTWICK, WV6 8BP

Prime residential area, large Detached, Hall, 3 Reception, spacious 20ft Kitchen, Utility, Study, WC., 5 Bedrooms, Bathroom + additional Bathroom / shower area, Garage, generous Rear Garden. Epc: TBA

Guide £395,000 / £415,000.

**VIEWING: FRIDAY 5th OCTOBER @ 2.30 p.m.
& SATURDAY 6th OCTOBER @ 12.30 p.m.**

PLEASE NOTE: Viewing of all Lots at own risk. Viewings are at the times specified so, should you arrive late, you may find your viewing time is limited or that we have moved on in order to maintain the time schedule

2 Waterloo Road, Wolverhampton WV1 4BL 01902 710626 / 424044 E-mail: swashauctions@btconnect.com www.kstuartswash.co.uk



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AUCTION

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Address	Wednesday 10th, 17th & 24th October	Saturday 6th, 13th, 20th, 27th October
9 Lindon Drive, Brownhills	10:00am	10:00am
4 Balmoral Court, Belt Road, Hednesford	10:45am	10:45am
117 Moss Road, Chads Moor, Cannock	11:30am	11:30am
118 Moss Road, Chads Moor, Cannock	11:30am	11:30am
Residential Development Site, Rear of 117-118 Moss Road, Cannock	11:30am	11:30am
12 Central Avenue, Chads Moor, Cannock	By prior appointment with agents	
163-165 High Street, Chasetown, Burntwood		

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LOT 1

**9 LINDON
DRIVE,
BROWNHILLS,
WS8 6DD**

**FREEHOLD
WITH VACANT
POSSESSION**

- ◆ Three bedroom semi detached house
- ◆ In need of refurbishment
- ◆ Located in popular position
- ◆ Gas central heating
- ◆ EPC rating D (58)+

GUIDE PRICE £65,000+



LOT 2

**4 BALMORAL
COURT,
BELT ROAD,
HEDNESFORD,
WS12 4JP**

**LEASEHOLD
WITH VACANT
POSSESSION**

- ◆ Ground floor flat
- ◆ Two bedrooms
- ◆ Electric heating
- ◆ Fully double glazed
- ◆ Off road parking
- ◆ EPC rating C (74)

GUIDE PRICE £60,000+



LOT 3

**117 MOSS
ROAD,
CHADSMOOR,
CANNOCK,
WS11 6DP**

**FREEHOLD
WITH VACANT
POSSESSION**

- ◆ Attractive three bedroomed detached house
- ◆ Located in popular residential area
- ◆ Requiring some modernisation
- ◆ Benefiting from gas fired central heating
- ◆ EPC rating E (43)

GUIDE PRICE £110,000+



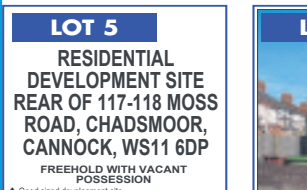
LOT 4

**118 MOSS
ROAD,
CHADSMOOR,
CANNOCK,
WS11 6DP**

**FREEHOLD
WITH VACANT
POSSESSION**

- ◆ Attractive double fronted 4 bedroom detached house
- ◆ In popular residential area
- ◆ Requiring some modernisation
- ◆ EPC rating E (52)

GUIDE PRICE £150,000+



LOT 5

**RESIDENTIAL
DEVELOPMENT SITE
REAR OF 117-118 MOSS
ROAD, CHADSMOOR,
CANNOCK, WS11 6DP**

**FREEHOLD WITH VACANT
POSSESSION**

- ◆ Good sized development site
- ◆ Outline PP for the erection of 4No. one bedroom apartments together with off road parking, cycling bin store and amenity space
- ◆ Outline PP was granted for the development by Cannock Chase District Council under ref: CH17/091 ON 22nd December 2017
- ◆ Floor areas:
◆ Flats 1 and 3 - 41.00m²
◆ Flats 2 and 4 - 37.31m²

GUIDE PRICE £80,000+



LOT 6

**12 CENTRAL
AVENUE,
CHADSMOOR,
CANNOCK,
WS11 5JW**

**FREEHOLD
RESIDENTIAL
INVESTMENT**

- ◆ Three bedroom semi detached house
- ◆ Standing on larger corner plot
- ◆ Gas central heating
- ◆ Producing £6,760 P.A.
- ◆ EPC rating tbc

GUIDE PRICE £70,000+



LOT 7

- ◆ Detached property arranged as four self contained flats
- ◆ Popular residential area
- ◆ Producing £19,260 P.A.
- ◆ EPC ratings:
◆ Flat 163 - C (71) ◆ Flat 163a - C (71)
◆ Flat 165 - E (46) ◆ Flat 165a - C (70)

GUIDE PRICE £180,000 - £200,000

IMPORTANT NOTICE

**All Bidders
Must
Register**

The Money Laundering,
Terrorist Financing and
Transfer of Funds
(Information on the Payer)
Regulation 2017, Proceeds
of Crime Act 2002 and The
Terrorism Act 2000
**Under the above
legislation it is now a
legal requirement that
all potential
purchasers/bidders
register with the
auctioneers prior to
commencement of the
sale**

**163 - 165
HIGH STREET,
CHASETOWN,
BURNWOOD,
WS7 3XL**

**FREEHOLD
RESIDENTIAL
INVESTMENT**

L & S PRESTIGE ESTATES

46 High Road, Lane Head, Willenhall, WV12 4JQ



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The Chronicle Thursday, October 4, 2018

WILLENHALL



WOLVEHAMPTON RD WEST,
Victorian three Bed Semi, Lounge, Rear Reception Rooms, Generous Kitchen/ Diner, Cellar/ Bar, Loft Room With En-Suite, Family Bathroom, Substantial Detached Brick Workshop

OIRO £350,000

ESSINGTON



LONG LANE, ESSINGTON
Extended Three Bed Detached, Generous Lounge/ Diner, Extended Kitchen/Diner, First Floor Family Shower Room, Part D/G & Full C/H, Secure Off Road Parking, Landscaped Rear Garden, Fantastic Location

OIEO £250,000



BIRCHDALE, BILSTON
Individually Designed Three Bed Detached Dormer Style Bungalow Having Lounge, Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen, Utility, Ground Floor W.c., Three Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, D/G, C/H, Garage & Driveway

O.I.E.O £220,000

WILLENHALL



DOVEDALE AVE, WILLENHALL
Three Bed Detached, Two Reception Rooms, Modern Refitted Kitchen, Open Plan Conservatory/ Kitchen, Three Double Bedrooms, Refitted Family Bathroom Great Extension Potential SSTP

OIEO £210,000

WEDNESFIELD



LINTHOUSE LANE, W/TON
Fully Refurbished Three Bed Semi, Through Lounge, Conservatory, Modern Refitted Kitchen, Stylish Refitted Shower Room, Separate W.C, New Carpets Throughout, C/ Heating & D/Glazing, Private Rear Garden

OIEO £185,000

BILSTON



WILLENHALL RD, W/TON
Immaculate Three Bed Semi, Lounge, Dining Room, Open Plan Kitchen, Conservatory, Modern Refitted Shower Room, D/ Glazing & C/Heating, Garage, Private Rear Garden, Block Paved Driveway

OIEO £175,000

WILLENHALL



AVON DRIVE, WILLENHALL
Modern Three Bed Semi Having Lounge, Kitchen Diner, Ground Floor W.C, Family Bathroom, D/ Glazing & C/Heating, Garage & Driveway, No Chain

£170,000

WEDNESFIELD



GILBERT CLOSE, W/TON
Extended Two Bed Semi, Lounge & Sitting Room, Separate Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen, Study/ Office, Feature Conservatory, Two Double Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, Double Glazing & G C/Heating, Garage

OIRO £140,000

SHORT HEATH



COPPICE LANE, WILLENHALL
Refurbished Three Bed Mid Town House, Lounge, Refitted Kitchen, Ground Floor W.C, Modern Family Bathroom, D/ Glazing & C/Heating, New Carpets Throughout, Front & Rear Garden, Canalside Access

OIEO £125,000

POOL HAYES



CHATSWORTH CLOSE, W/HALL
Public Notice. Chatsworth Cl, W'hall, WV12 4LZ. We advise an offer has been made for the above property in the sum £111,500. Persons wishing to increase should notify the agents of the best offer prior to exchange

OIEO £110,000

WEDNESFIELD



MERRICK ROAD, WEDNESFIELD
One Bed First Floor Flat, Fully Refurbished, Refitted Modern Kitchen, Family Bathroom, C/ Heating & D/Glazing, Rear Garden

OIEO £75,000

BENTLEY



GRENVILLE CLOSE, WALSALL
One Bed First Flat Having Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Double Bedrooms, Bathroom, D/ Glazing, C/Heating & A Garage In A Separate Block. Ideal Investment Or FTB

OIEO £68,000

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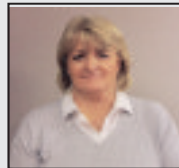


Tel: 01922 404446

212 High Street, Bloxwich, WS3 3LA



Paul Marrion - Partner



Kathy Marrion - Partner

www.marrion.co.uk



Energy Rating-C

NEW

Reedwood Gardens
Walsall

- First Floor flat
- Gas centrally heated
- PVCu double glazed
- Lounge, kitchen
- 2 bedrooms, bathroom/WC
- Communal gardens
- Parking
- NO ONWARD CHAIN

£78,000



Energy Rating-C

NEW

Smiths Flour Mill
Walsall

- Penthouse apartment
- Town centre location
- Lounge area
- Fitted kitchen area
- 2 bedrooms
- bathroom/WC
- Secure parking
- NO ONWARD CHAIN

£132,500



Energy rating-D

NEW

Valley Road
Walsall

- Extended Semi-Detached House
- Gas Central Heating
- PVCu Double Glazing
- Front Lounge,
- Rear Fitted Kitchen
- Reception Room/Sun Room
- Utility Room, Downstairs wc
- Driveway & Rear Garden

£144,950



Energy Rating - D

NEW

Alton Avenue
Willenhall

- Semi detached house
- Gas centrally heated
- PVCu double glazed
- Lounge,
- dining room, kitchen
- 3 bedrooms,
- shower room/WC
- Parking and Gardens

£150,000



Energy rating- E

NEW

Minewood Close
Bloxwich

- Semi detached house
- Gas centrally heated
- PVCu double glazed
- Lounge, dining kitchen, conservatory, utility area
- 3 bedrooms, shower room/WC
- Storage area
- parking, gardens
- NO ONWARD CHAIN

£180,000



Energy rating- C

NEW

Unity Drive
Pelsall

- Newly built modern town house
- Gas centrally heated
- PVCu double glazed
- Rear Lounge, kitchen
- 2 bedrooms, bathroom/WC
- Parking,
- Rear garden
- NO ONWARD CHAIN

£184,950



Energy rating- C-

NEW

Pulley Close
Bloxwich

- Detached house
- Gas centrally heated
- PVCu double glazed
- Lounge, dining kitchen
- 5 bedrooms,
- Bathroom/WC
- Garage
- Rear garden

£280,000



Energy Rating- tbc

NEW

Bealeys Close
Bloxwich

- Modern Detached Family Home
- Gas Central Heating, PVCu Double Glazing
- Lounge, Dining Room
- Fitted Kitchen, Utility Room
- Four Good Sized Bedrooms,
- Ensuite, Jack and Jill Shower Room
- Family Bathroom, 2 x Garage Driveway
- Rear Garden

£380,000



Energy Rating - D

Hall Lane
Pelsall

- Detached house
- Gas centrally heated
- Double glazed
- Lounge, dining room, kitchen
- 4 bedrooms, bathroom/WC
- Garage, driveway
- Gardens
- NO ONWARD CHAIN

£325,000



Energy Rating- D

TO LET

Blakenall Lane
Leamore

- OVER 50's ONLY
- One bedroom apartment
- Fitted kitchen with integrated appliances
- Lounge, Bedroom
- Shower Room/WC
- DSS Considered, Sorry no Pets or Smokers
- £180 reference fee applies
- NO ONWARD CHAIN

£475



Energy Rating - C

TO LET

Wye Road
Walsall

- Semi Detached House
- Gas centrally heated
- Double glazed
- Lounge, dining room, kitchen
- 3 bedrooms, shower room/WC
- Large rear garden
- SORRY NO DSS, PETS OR SMOKERS
- £180 reference fee applies

£525



Energy rating- E

TO LET

Achilles Close
Great Wyrley

- End terrace house
- Gas centrally heated
- PVCu double glazed
- Lounge, Kitchen
- 2 bedrooms, bathroom/WC
- Gardens
- SORRY NO PETS, DSS, OR SMOKERS
- £180 reference fee applies

£550



Energy Rating - C

TO LET

Crown Lofts
Walsall

- Attractive duplex apartment
- Gas central heating
- Double glazing
- Lounge/dining room, kitchen
- 2 bedrooms, shower room/WC
- SORRY NO DSS, PETS OR SMOKERS
- £180 including VAT reference fees apply

£575



Energy rating-TBC

TO LET

73 Lichfield Road
Bloxwich

- Inclusive of all bills
- Detached bungalow
- Gas centrally heated
- Gas central heating
- Double glazing
- Lounge/kitchenette
- Double bedroom
- Bathroom/WC
- Parking, garden

£700



Energy rating- C

Water Reed Grove
Walsall

- Self contained 2nd floor apartment
- Centrally heated & PVCu Double Glazing
- lounge/dining room, kitchen
- 2 bedrooms,
- Bathroom
- Allocated parking space
- well kept communal gardens
- NO ONWARD CHAIN

£83,950



Energy Rating - B

Portsea Street
Walsall

- Two Bedroom Semi-Detached House
- Gas Central Heating, Solar Panels
- PVCu Double Glazing
- Front Lounge, Dining Room,
- Fitted Kitchen, Cloakroom/wc
- Two Bedrooms, Bathroom
- Driveway, Rear Garden
- NO ONWARD CHAIN, cash offers only

£110,000



Energy rating-D

Fingerpost Drive
Pelsall

- Detached bungalow. Over 55's, Gas centrally heated
- PVCu double glazed
- Lounge,
- Fitted kitchen
- 2 bedrooms,
- Bathroom/WC
- Parking and gardens
- NO ONWARD CHAIN

£169,950



Energy Rating - D

Wetherby Road
Bloxwich

- Semi detached house
- Gas centrally heated
- Double glazed
- Lounge, dining kitchen
- 3 bedrooms, bathroom/WC
- Detached garage,
- Driveway, garden
- NO ONWARD CHAIN

£190,000



Energy Rating-D

Broad Lane
Essington

- Extended Detached House
- Gas centrally heated
- PVCu double glazed
- Extended Rear Lounge, conservatory, Fitted kitchen
- Study/music room,
- 3 double bedrooms (master with en-suite)
- Family bathroom
- Garage, Driveway and gardens

£250,000



Energy Rating - E

Argyle Road
Walsall

- Extended Semi-Detached House
- PVCu Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating
- Three Bedrooms
- Front Lounge, Rear Dining Room
- L-Shaped Extended Kitchen/Diner
- Family Bathroom
- Garage and Driveway

£265,000



Energy rating- E

Enderley Drive
Bloxwich

- Detached bungalow
- Gas centrally heated
- PVCu double glazed
- Lounge/dining room, kitchen
- 5 Bedrooms
- Shower room
- Carport, parking and gardens
- NO ONWARD CHAIN

£298,000



Energy Rating - B

Stafford Road
Bloxwich

- Extended Detached Family Home
- Two Reception Rooms
- Fitted Breakfast Kitchen
- Cloakroom, Conservatory
- Six Bedrooms, Three En-suites
- Family Bathroom, Large Driveway
- Rear Garden
- NO ONWARD CHAIN

£450,000



Energy Rating - C

Fordbrook Lane
Pelsall

- Detached house
- Gas centrally heated
- PVCu double glazed
- Lounge, dining room, kitchen
- 5 bedrooms,
- Bathroom/WC
- Garage, driveway,
- Gardens

£465,000



Energy Rating - C

Nest Common
Pelsall

- Detached House
- Gas centrally heated,
- Double glazed
- Lounge, study
- kitchen, utility
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- 2 car garage
- Building plot with planning permission

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Facelifted CX-3 still a strong contender

By Tom Wiltshire

Mazda has a habit of regularly updating its cars with small refinements and improvements, rather than saving them all for a big update every few years. Such is the way with the 2018 CX-3 compact crossover, which you might find difficult to tell apart from its predecessor.

Small changes aside, it's the same recipe we've come to appreciate from Mazda – good looks, a straightforward interior, smooth, naturally-aspirated petrol engines and excellent driving manners.

Oddly enough given the current anti-diesel rhetoric, one of the largest changes for the updated CX-3 is the addition of a new 1.8-litre oil-burner. Mazda UK admits it's unlikely to be in huge demand, though – the outgoing 1.5 only accounted for 20 per cent of sales.

Elsewhere, changes are discreet to say the least. There's a revised front grille and some new LED taillights, while the interior sees a redesigned centre console and some new fabric trim.

Of the three engines on offer, it's the base unit that impresses the most. The naturally-aspirated, 119bhp 2.0-litre is smooth and refined around town and mated to a slick six-speed manual it's also good fun to wring out. The payoff for going naturally aspirated is that official fuel economy results tend to be far closer to reality – the claimed 45.5mpg is certainly achievable.

Also on offer is a 148bhp version of the same engine and the new diesel is impressively economical. Four-wheel drive is an option for all engines, while both petrols can also be had with a six-speed automatic gearbox.



Four-wheel drive is an option for all engines

Mazda is somewhat like Ford – both brands are skilled at making ordinary cars with exceptional handling. While the Focus pips the 3 and the Fiesta the 2, Mazda's CX-3 certainly has the Ford Ecosport licked when it comes to handling in the compact crossover segment. The CX-3's steering is sharp and accurate, and front-end grip inspires more confidence than many other cars in this class. There's not a huge ride penalty, either.

Mazda's tweaked the suspension to give the car a more grown-up feel, but the slightly softer edge might not be to your taste – it soaks up bumps well but tends to bounce over larger crests in the road surface.

It's a comfortable cruiser though, despite rather a lot of wind roar from those large side mirrors. Much like the old CX-3, and that's no bad thing. Mazda's family face sits well on the front of this car, and the overall effect of a smaller CX-5 is quite handsome.

The CX-3's updated grille is flanked by slim LED headlights, mirrored in the distinctive new LED tail lights. The whole effect is lifted further by the addition of Mazda's Soul Red Crystal



The CX-3's updated grille is flanked by slim LED headlights, mirrored in the distinctive new LED tail lights

paint – one of the best colours available on cars today, and an option box well worth ticking.

The CX-3 lifts its interior from the Mazda 2, so there's a pleasantly driver-focused aspect to the cabin with a wonderfully straightforward gauge cluster. There are rather a lot of different materials on show, of varying quality – we're not the biggest fans of the suede stripe across the dash on certain models, but other aspects such as the solid metal surrounds to the air vents feel solid and premium.

The redesigned centre console drops the manual handbrake for an electric one, but as a side effect the controller for Mazda's infotainment system moves further forward to

a far more comfortable location. The system itself is decent, but we'd suggest adding Apple Carplay and Android Auto to improve it further – an optional, dealer-fit extra.

There's a decent amount of space on offer, but the CX-3 is still more cramped for rear occupants than some rivals such as the Skoda Karoq.

All CX-3s are well equipped – Mazda's options list rarely extends further than the paint colour. Trim levels start out with SE Nav+, which brings air-con, cruise control, keyless start and Mazda's infotainment system.

SE-L Nav+, meanwhile adds rear parking sensors, climate control and some extra safety kit. Top-spec Sport Nav adds leather, a Bose

surround-sound system and keyless entry, plus LED headlights.

It doesn't come cheap – the CX-3 starts from £18,995, where a basic Seat Arona can be had from less than £17,000.

For keen drivers, the Mazda CX-3 should still be on the compact crossover shortlist – it's a great little car to drive in and out of the city. Potential buyers should take a good test drive to make sure the character of the naturally-aspirated engine suits them, though – and if you're not too worried about premium equipment, there is better value to be found elsewhere.

But for the most part this is an excellent car with plenty going for it.

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Taste of the high life in modern SUV

By John Griffiths

There's no doubt that environmental concerns – to say nothing of regulations – and the demonisation of diesel has accelerated the pace of innovation in the motor industry.

That's not to mention the need to protect owners' pockets from rising fuel costs and taxes, as that's still a major factor in our motoring choices.

Swedish brand Volvo is tackling the problem boldly, by declaring that within a couple of years all its cars will be going electric – either as hybrids or full battery-powered vehicles.

The prospects are good for the Swedes, whose recent models are at least a match for what many call the 'premium' European brands. Their smallest SUV, the XC40, was launched earlier this year into probably the most crowded and competitive area of the market but nevertheless took the European Car of the Year title. It's not hard to see why.

Originally powered by 2.0 litre petrol and diesel motors, there's now another option – a 1.5 litre petrol version, using the first three cylinder engine in the brand's long history.

It augurs well for the future, as this engine will appear in future Volvo models mated with an electric motor as the mainstay of its new hybrid range.

The figures are impressive enough – 0 to 62mph in under ten seconds and average economy of nearly 45mpg (official figures) for a car of this size. For while it's the smallest of Volvo's three SUVs, the XC40 is few people's idea of small and weighs in at nearly one and a half tonnes.

But, as the old song says, it's not what you



Controls and instruments are familiar

do it's the way that you do it. With 154bhp and a hefty 265Nm of torque (thanks to turbocharging) the new engine is smooth and whisper quiet, giving limousine-like levels of refinement even at motorway speeds.

Perhaps surprisingly (since it does power the cheapest models in the XC40 range) Volvo is forecasting the three cylinder petrol engine (T3 in Volvo speak) will only account for ten per cent of sales.

It believes a majority of drivers will still opt for the similarly-powered but more economical diesels.

The T3 comes only as a front wheel drive model (4WD is reserved for more powerful versions) and prices start from £27,905, and it has a slight advantage in terms of benefit in kind tax against the rest of the range.

The test car was a sportily-themed R-Design Pro version, listed at £31,360, but this actually weighed in at more than £38,000 as it was loaded with optional extras. Like most press fleet cars, Volvo likes to showcase most, if not



While smaller than the XC90 and XC60, the new XC40 isn't exactly small, with 432 litres of boot space (1,308 with the rear seats folded)

all, of what's on offer for those with deeper pockets. One of these was the four corner adaptive dampers, which at £750 seems worthwhile as it enables the car to constantly find the balance between a supple ride and sporty dynamics.

While the official (laboratory test) fuel average is almost 45mpg (with a CO2 rating of 146g/km) I averaged a not unreasonable 38mpg, which fell to around 33mpg on a series of shorter journeys.

While smaller than the latest XC90 and XC60, the new XC40 isn't exactly small. With 432 litres of boot space (1,308 with the rear seats folded) it's generously-sized cabin has head and leg room for five adults in comfort.

It's controls and instruments are familiar to anyone who has driven a modern Volvo, with the central touchscreen controller domination and dash for intuitive access to the navigation, audio, communications and vehicle settings – many functions being mirrored on the configurable 12.3 inch 'TFT' instrument display in front of the driver.

Safety features high on Volvo's agenda, naturally, so XC40 drivers get the 'city safety' package which includes forward collision warning and, if necessary, emergency braking. The system detects not only cars but also pedestrians, cyclists and large animals.

There are also head-on crash and run-off road mitigation system as well as multiple

airbags and the Volvo's inherent strength. As European Car of the Year the new XC40 was the logical choice to launch Volvo's new engine as the company signals its efforts to reduce its impact on the environment and drivers' pockets.

The new T3 power plant will have an important part to play in Volvo's vision of the future, and it does inspire confidence. While not the most powerful or economical choice, it is a masterful piece of engineering for its blend of smooth, quiet performance for those who prefer petrol.

It proves the point that you don't need a big, thirsty engine to enjoy a taste of the high life in a modern SUV.

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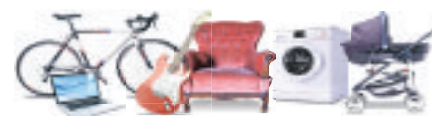


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Triumphant European team after reclaiming the Ryder Cup in Paris at the weekend beating the US 17.5-10.5



This is what it is all about – the Ryder Cup trophy



Peter Baker at the South Staffordshire Golf Club and, right, in 1993



Peter Baker on the 17th tee at the Forest of Arden

Ryder Cup memories burn bright for Baker

SPORTING FEATURE

By Matt Wilson

AS the victorious European team reclaimed the Ryder Cup in Paris at the weekend it brought back memories for someone closer to home.

The team wrapped up a 17.5-10.5 victory over the United States. And whenever the Ryder Cup rolls around, Peter Baker is reminded of 1993. "That was the highlight of my career," he smiles, 25 years later.

"I beat Corey Pavin in the singles, and beat Fred Couples and Paul Azinger in the four-ball with Woosy (Ian Woosnam).

"That was a big year. I won a couple of tournaments and played well in the Ryder Cup."

Baker was just 25 at the time and ranked 67 in the world. He was the second youngest golfer in the competition and the lowest-ranked player in the European team.

But even though Europe lost that year, Baker finished as one of their stars with three wins and one defeat. And to say he and Woosnam beat Couples and Azinger, who were ranked five and six in the world at the time, is somewhat of an understatement.

They demolished them to leave Europe one point ahead going into the singles.

Relaxed

But Baker, who grew up in Codsall and now lives '1,000 yards' from his old house in Tettenhall, is refusing to live on past glories. Having recently turned 50, the South Staffordshire Golf Club professional is enjoying a second career on the European Senior Tour.

"I'm enjoying the competition side of it," he said. "It's funny because I haven't done it for a while so I'm getting used to it again. It's nice to get another chance, in a way. It's a little bit more relaxed, but funnily enough I was leading the other week going into the last round and it felt weird.

"I felt a bit under pressure, a bit edgy. I thought 'bloody hell, I haven't done this for a while'. It's about getting used to that pressure. Hopefully I'll calm down a bit."

Senior Tours are serious business these days. Baker has watched one of his friends, Paul Broad-

"I'm enjoying the competition side of it. I haven't done it for a while so I'm getting used to it again"

hurst, from Walsall, win the 2016 Senior Open and this year's Senior PGA Championship. Broadhurst took home \$585,000 for winning that second major and has made a staggering \$1.1million so far this year across the pond on the PGA Champions Tour.

Baker's winnings from the European Senior Tour are slightly more modest, but turning 50 can give golfers a second crack of the whip.

However, the 2006 Ryder Cup vice-captain is picking and choosing his battles these days.

"When I played on the main tour I did nearly 600 tournaments so I missed a lot of my kids growing up," he admitted. "I'd better make it up to them now. They are 25 and 26 so they're well on the way though."

"It's not just a case of dusting off the clubs and raking in the cash, because it takes more work getting back into shape once you're the other side of 50.

"This last year I've done a bit more gym work, more stretching work, trying to make myself more durable," he said. "I don't think there's a better exercise than swinging the club though.

"You can't quite go at it like you used to because you're in bits the next day. If you keep swinging it helps, rather than have a week off, because then you're stiff. It's hard work on the joints, you do get a bit sore.

"You get to know yourself a bit better. You're always looking to recover a bit better, ice baths, etc. And then if you've played well a nice cold beer, that's how we used to do it, nothing wrong with that. It's a bit of a rehydration!"

But life on Tour is not necessarily as glamorous as it appears.



"It's not so much the long days," he says. "It's the travelling and the hotels, they're all the same. It's different to going on holiday, any businessman will tell you that. The enjoyable bit is playing the golf obviously, getting out on the course and playing, you meet a lot of nice people, that's a plus.

"The travelling is the hard bit, week after week, hotels are hotels."

Baker is not really a man to complain too much. He has a ready smile and a warm chuckle, and when the conversation turns to his beloved Wolves side, he starts to really enjoy himself.

"I've been a season ticket holder since I was four," he boasts. "I used to go with my dad. Since then I've missed about four seasons, that's about it.

Improved

"Last season was brilliant. I didn't miss many games, but it's totally different to what we've ever had. It's exciting football, it's entertaining, they're organised, look like they know what they're doing.

"We tried to play a little bit like that with (Stale) Solbakken, and (Mark) McGhee, but you can't turn the players they had into playing that way.

"The players we've got now can play that way. The lads that Nuno has kept, like (Matt) Doherty, he can play that way and he's helped them, improved them."

So what does Baker, a season ticket holder at Molineux for more than 40 years, think of Wolves's controversial link with super-agent Jorge Mendes?

"My opinion on that is you've got to be with the best to be the best," he shrugs. "It's a bit like having the best golf coach, you want to learn from the best."

Miller time, unbeaten record put to the test

DUDLEY'S Josh Miller has no qualms in putting his fledgling unbeaten record on the line when he steps in with Ricky Hatton trained prospect Jake Haigh this month.

The 25-year-old super middleweight has racked up three consecutive wins since turning pro but puts his unbeaten streak on the line against Macclesfield's Haigh in Stoke on October 20. Miller and Haigh clash at the top of BCB promotions' 'Pride of the Potteries' show at King's Hall.

Miller said: "I'm excited. We are both undefeated and these are the fights that I want to be in to test my skills. I think it makes for a great fight."

Miller had 18 amateur fights and won a West Midlands title and a Central England Title before moving into the paid ranks. After making his ring return in July, he is eager to make up for lost time.

As well as Haigh versus Miller, Stoke boxers Nathan Heaney and debutant Cole Johnson are also in action alongside Wolverhampton's Conah Walker and Swadlincote's Midlands Area champion, Connor Parker.

Students get chance to learn art of boxing

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Fully qualified coaches will deliver the sessions at the BCB HQ in Wharfedale Street, Wednesbury. Johnson, a sports assistant & fitness instructor at the university, said: "This is a wonderful opportunity for students to get fit and learn the art of boxing.

"We are looking forward to working with the students," said BCB's head trainer Paul Mann. Sessions take place from Monday to Friday, from 10am-noon and on Sunday mornings, Monday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings. Email paul@bcb-promotions.com for more information.

Follow in Joshua's steps? Just Delicious

AN amateur boxer from Wolverhampton is hoping to follow in the footsteps of heavyweight champion Anthony Joshua.

Delicious Orie, a 21-year-old half-Russian, half-Nigerian, is a member of Jewellery Quarter Boxing Club, within Henrietta Street Gym, and juggles his fighting with studying economics and management at Aston University.

He has already trodden in Joshua's path, winning the 2018 Super-Heavyweight Elite Haringey Box Cup, Europe's biggest amateur tournament, which Joshua won in 2009 and 10. He has added the East Midlands Box Cup, and, with 18 wins from 20 bouts, Delicious has become British University champion in 2017 and 18 and England Boxing Development champion.

He said: "Joshua is a huge inspiration and role model for me. He's definitely paving the way for super heavyweights like me."

Jewellery Quarter Boxing Club head coach Mick Maguire said: 'Delicious' work ethic and talent continues to impress and his accomplishments speak for themselves."



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Golf club to host coveted tournament

A GOLF club on the edge of Cannock Chase has been named as the host course for the 2021 English Women's Amateur Championships.

Club bosses say Beau Desert's hard-earned reputation as one of the finest golf clubs in the UK – and holding a Championship status – has been enhanced by the invitation to stage the coveted tournament.

James Crampton, England Golf Championship director, said: "We are delighted to be staging the English women's amateur at Beau Desert. As we know from previous visits, it is a superb course which will be a great test for our competitors."

"The club is extremely supportive of these events and we know the staff and members will do all they can to make this championship a great success."

Peaceful

Beau Desert Golf Club is situated within Cannock Chase – just outside the village of Hazelslade – and offers enticing greens and sloping fairways within a peaceful and lush surrounding, completely stimulating for golfers.

Ben Rhodes, chairman of Beau Desert Golf Club, said "It is an honour to once again be holding a tournament showcasing some of the country's top golfing talent. This is an exciting time for the club and the local area alike."

He added: "At Beau, we eagerly welcome golfers and golf enthusiasts to support and be part of the prestigious event and we will be working hard to ensure the event is an outstanding success for all."

The English women's amateur is one of the major events on the England Golf championship calendar and attracts a top-class field. Chelmsford's Georgina Blackman won the tournament this year, with Beau Desert member Morgan Thomas among the field.

Boxing night packs a Halloween punch

BCB Promotions are back in Walsall for Halloween 'spooktacular' weekend of professional boxing.

English bantamweight champion Kyle Williams returns to Town Hall the ring on October 27 for an international eight-round contest while Ryan 'Stewart' Davies, of Oldbury and Burntwood's Troi Coleman are straight back out after recent victories in their last Town Hall appearances.

Richie Ghent trained duo, Danny Ball and Connor Lee Jones feature alongside Central Area heavyweight champion Kash Ali.

Dudley's popular Les Byfield completes the line up.

Tickets are £35 standard or £65 to include a buffet. Call 0845 111 2900. Fancy dress is welcomed with a Halloween theme running throughout the show.

Langman can still take debut title

CHESLYN Hay racer Josh Langman had a meeting to forget in the Thundersport GB, CB500 class, Freshman series, at Cadwell Park but still has an outside chance of claiming the title in his debut season.

After winning the opening race, a last-lap corner move for another win ended in a crash, which meant he also missed the third.

"It's left me 40-odd points off the lead now but it's double points at the final round, so maybe I can still win it," said Langman, aged 27. "I had an

atrocious weekend with three big crashes in all, which meant I lost my confidence a bit.

"I'll just see how it goes for the final round, but either way I've done better than I thought."

Wednesbury's Neil Lloyd, 48, who has been without much luck mechanically this year, was in East Midlands Racing Association action, racing in the earlstock class on his Honda RVF.

He said: "We've not had the best of seasons and I spent a lot of time on the RVF during the run-up to Mallory but it paid off because the meeting

was the first time I felt I'd raced properly on that bike."

After qualifying 13th of 27 riders, Lloyd finished second in the first race. He switched to wet tyres for the next but with the track drying came 10th in the lightweight class due to a lack of grip.

All the remaining races took place in the dry and Lloyd brought his bike home ninth in the next earlstock race and 17th in the lightweight race. Lloyd will next compete in the final Darley Moor round this weekend.

Specialists Pics' third draw in row

Rushall Olympic 2 Stratford Town 2
DRAW specialists Rushall Olympic made it three on the bounce when they came from behind twice to share the spoils with Stratford Town in an entertaining encounter.

It was the visitors who drew first blood when they went ahead in the second minute. Good inter-play between Kieren Westwood and Will Grocott saw them play in Michael Taylor, who beat the offside trap, and went on to fire past the advancing Joe Slinn in the Pics goal.

Stratford had made an enterprising start to the game but they suffered a blow on eight minutes when Danny Waldron outjumped goalkeeper Ross Etheridge, to head home Ashley Sammons' corner.

The visitors created two great opportunities when Jordan Williams saw his header cleared off the line and moments later Sam Whittall sliced a clearance to Taylor, but he wasted his chance by firing high and wide.

The home side were the next to threaten when Waldron headed down into the path of Sammons who saw his first time flick blocked by Etheridge and then on the stroke of half time Richard Brodie saw his shot was saved low down.

Rushall were caught cold at the beginning of the second half when the visitors went ahead for the second time. Grocott's free-kick was headed back across goal by Jordan Williams for Lewis Wilson to head home from close range.

The goal boosted the visitors and Wilson saw his shot saved by Slinn but at the other end the home side levelled when Etheridge, in the visitors goal, couldn't keep out a 25-yard shot from Sammons and the ball trickled over the line.

Darlo game called off at last minute

DARLASTON Town (1874) were without a game last weekend as their West Midlands Regional League Division One opponents Telford Juniors pulled out at the last minute.

However the fourth placed side are back in league action this weekend when they entertain Black Country rivals Gornal Athletic at The Paycare Ground, Bentley Leisure Pavilion, Bentley Road North, Bentley, kick off 3pm.

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QUESTIONS FOR THE SADDLERS

Walsall 0 Accrington Stanley 1

SADDLERS may have made an impressive start to the season with five wins from 10 games, but questions are being asked after defeat to Accrington.

The big one is: Have they got enough about them to stay in the promotion race?

Overall, the signs are positive, writes Joe Masi. But if they are to clinch a place in the top six, this is the type of game they should be winning.

And they now need to turn around their home form with the Saddlers, before Tuesday's clash with Shrewsbury, having failed to win in their last four outings at the Banks's Stadium.

Over the course of the 90 minutes, Stanley had just two decent spells in this fiery encounter.

Both arrived at the start of each half with John Coleman's side flying out of the blocks.

And they were gifted the lead after seven minutes when Isaiah Osbourne gave away a careless penalty.

After Walsall had half-cleared a long throw, the former Villa man looked destined to simply hack the ball away.

Stepped

But he dallied, allowing Seamus Conneely to nip in – with Osbourne then kicking the man instead of the ball. Referee Charles Breakspear had no hesitation in pointing to the spot. Billy Kee then stepped up to convert from 12 yards.

From the moment Accrington scored, Walsall had been the team on top but were unable to find a way through and had Liam Roberts to thank for keeping out both Jordan Clark and Sean McConville.

Walsall huffed and puffed from that point with the introduction of Andy Cook making them more threatening. Guthrie almost pulled them level when he glanced a header wide from a corner, Zeli Ismail saw a drive saved by Conor Ripley and substitute Andy Cook headed over from a corner.

£1,000 served up for tennis club



Players with tennis pros Danny Sapsford and Jocelyn Rae at the event in Cheslyn Hay

TENNIS players took to the court to play alongside two British former professionals – and raised more than £1,000.

Cheslyn Hay Tennis Club teamed with sport charity Bright Ideas for Tennis and Virgin Media to host an afternoon of skill workshops and speed challenges, with proceeds going towards improving the club's facilities.

One-time GP Davis Cup player Danny Sapsford and 2010 Commonwealth Games mixed doubles champion Jocelyn Rae, played in an exhibition match and shared tips to help aspiring players improve their game.

Virgin Media gave free ice



William Mittens and Mia Taylor

creams to players and invited them to have their picture taken with an eye-catching 3D mural depicting Usain Bolt emerging from a hole in the ground.

The company, which is

currently expanding its ultrafast broadband network in Cheslyn Hay, also donated £150 worth of experience day vouchers to the club's raffle.

Chris Perrin, head coach at Cheslyn Hay Tennis Club, said: "It was hugely successful and we were delighted to see so many visitors of all ages taking to the court to enjoy some tennis."

"As a club we were very proud to welcome Danny and Jocelyn, who shared some valuable tips, and it's my hope that this will inspire more people to pick up a racquet."

"All the money we have raised will be invested in improving our facilities."

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